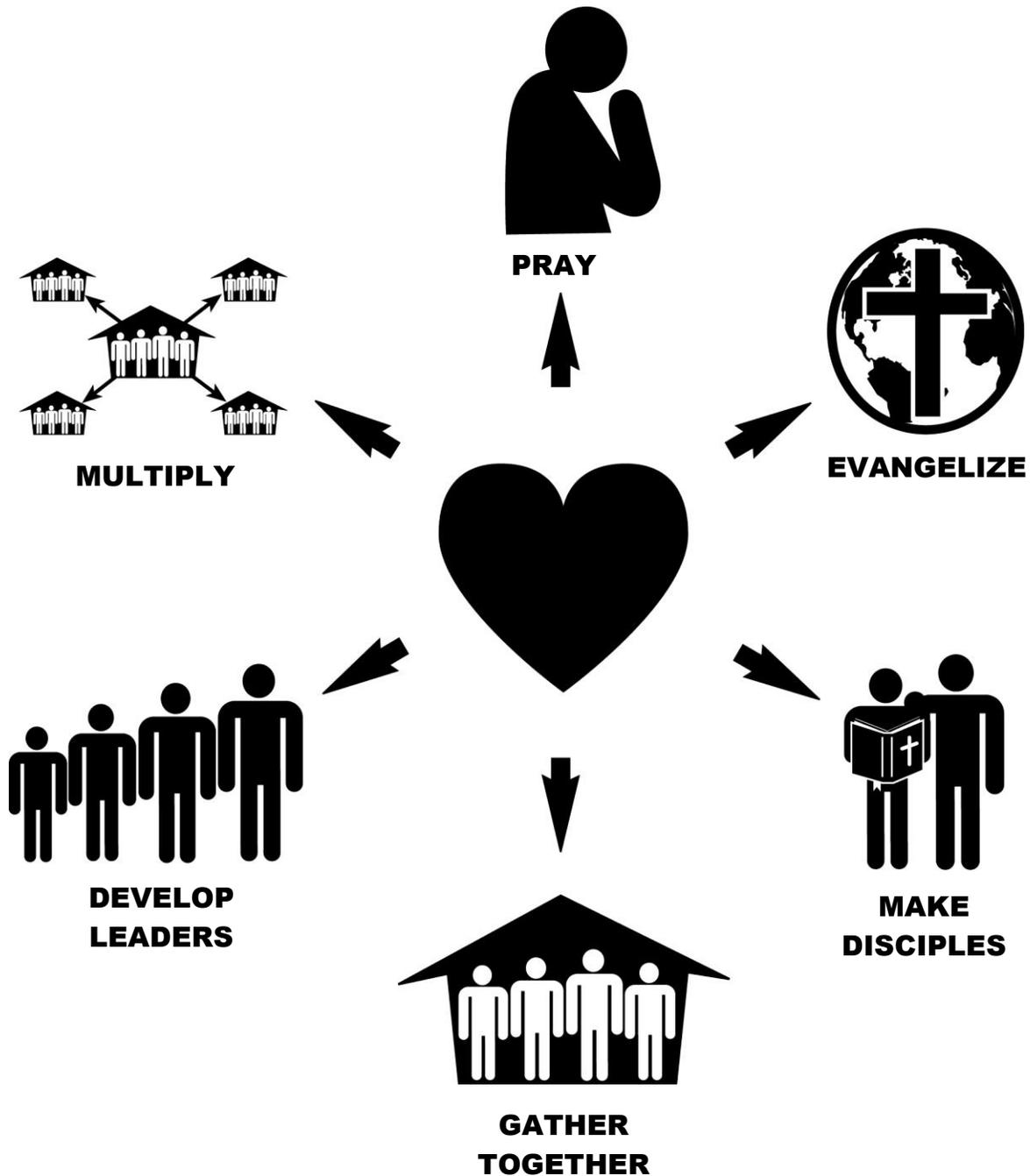


ENGLISH

First Steps

Mobilize Your Church into God's Harvest Fields



First Steps

Mobilize Your Church into God's Harvest Fields

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(abridged)
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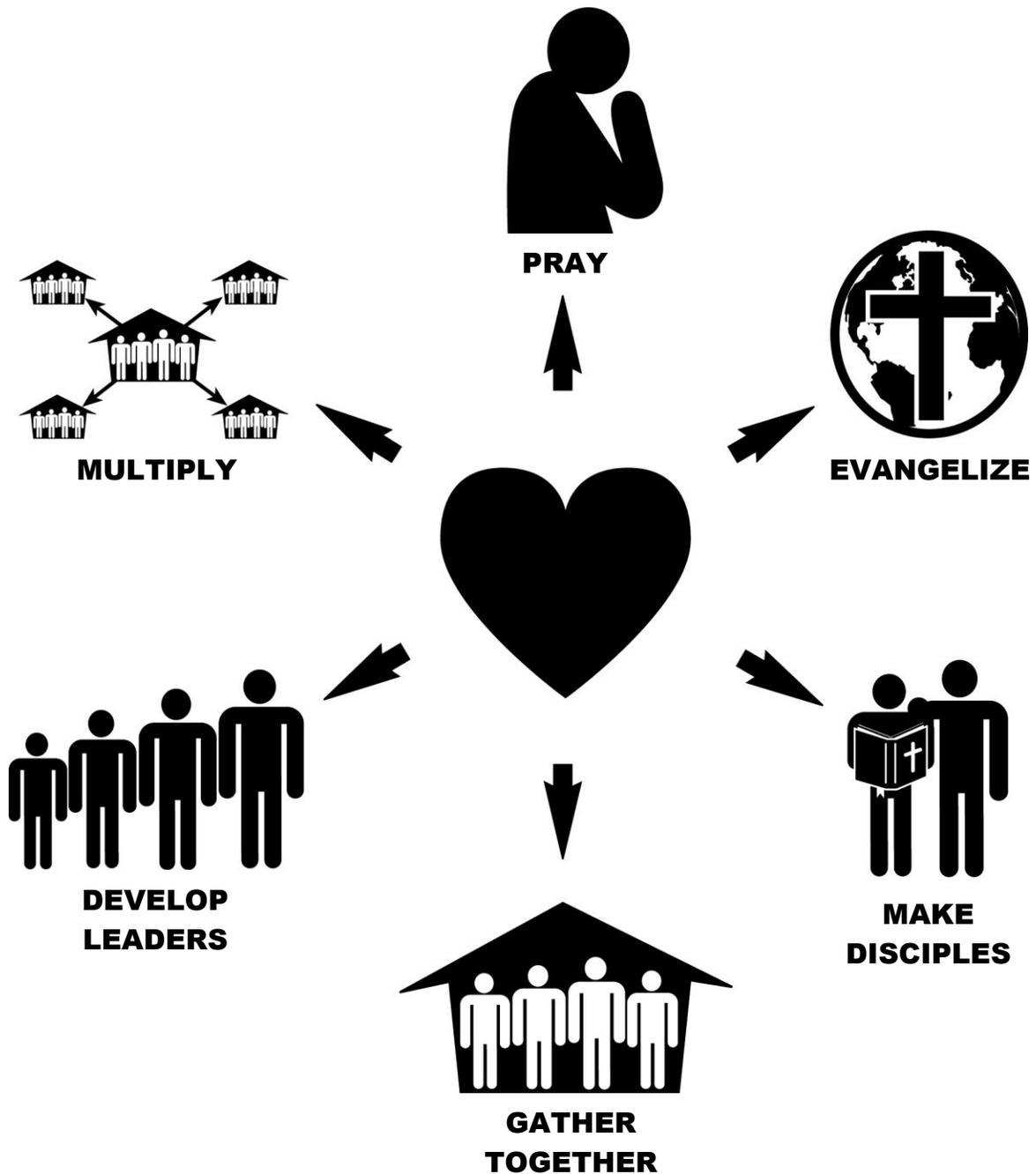
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VISION



THE PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

This manual is for church leaders who, like the Apostle Paul, are determined to be part of what God is doing today. It will equip you to take the FIRST STEPS to plant new churches in your communities. But more important, it will enable you to train the people in your church – as Paul disciplined Timothy – to help plant new churches alongside you.

You learn. You do. They watch you. Then they do.

This is not a book only to read to your church or only to preach on Sunday. The book of James encourages us to “be doers of the word, and not hearers only.” If we hear but do not do, he warns, we deceive ourselves into believing that we are obeying Christ. Put into practice what you learn in this manual.

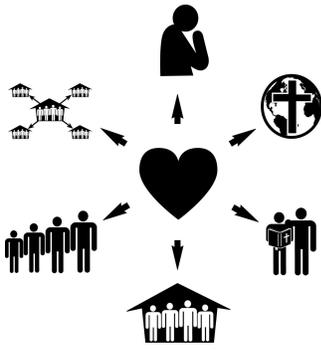
HOW TO USE THE MANUAL

Use this manual one on one – Paul to Timothy – like a coach or mentor. Use it in a small group of leaders who are planting a new church, or use it to train your entire church.

Each section includes “First Steps” challenges. Those challenges ask questions to help you think and pray about how you can obey Christ’s commands and follow the model of Paul today.

As you work your way through this manual and the Lord gives you a response to each challenge, write it down on the Strategy Worksheet at the end of the manual. When you finish, you will have developed a church planting strategy designed especially for you and your church.

Remember, it is not what you learn that is most important. It is what you DO with what you learn.



VISION

MAIN IDEAS

- This manual is written to help you start new churches in unreached neighborhoods.
- As you use this manual, answer the “First Steps” challenges in each chapter. They will help you develop a strategy to see that vision become reality.
- Use this manual to help train the people in your church.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST

Read Matthew 13:3-8

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

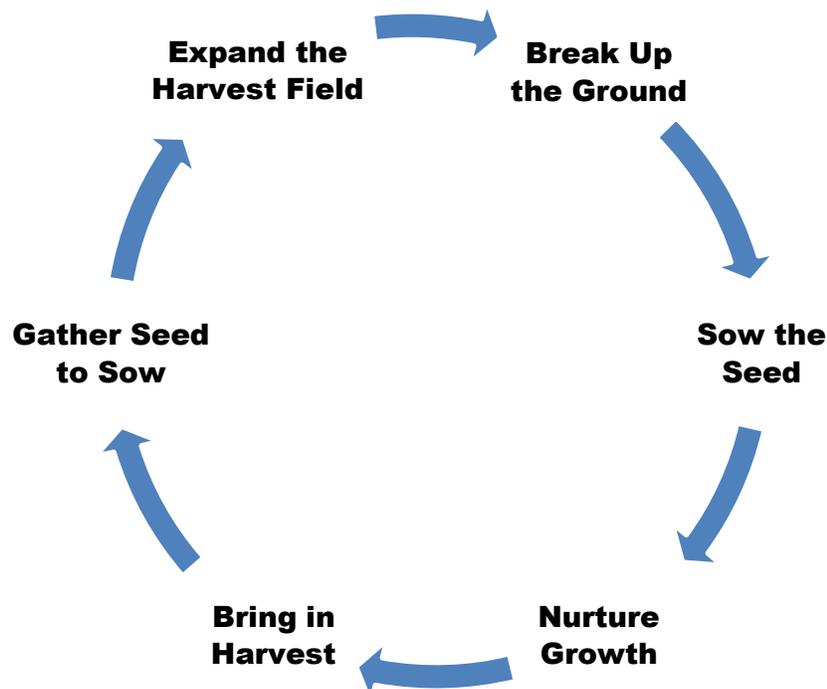
Every farmer wants a harvest. His eyes see an empty field that is overgrown with weeds and covered with rocks. But his mind sees his field covered with strong, healthy crops. And the promise in his mind, not the problems before his eyes, takes him into the field to work.

First, he breaks up the hard dirt, so the seeds can grow easily. Then he plants the seeds. As they grow, he pulls out the weeds that try to choke the new plants. He makes sure they have enough water, and he protects them from birds and bugs.

He does his part, knowing that only God has the power to make the seeds grow.

When the time is right, the farmer goes into the field, gathers the fruit of his harvest and takes it to his storehouse. There, he collects new seeds for the next planting season – more seeds than he started with. So his harvest grows greater every year.

Here is what the sowing and harvesting cycle looks like.



Church planting is similar to the sowing and harvesting cycle. Imagine that your community is a field. How does it look to you? Is it empty, choked with the weeds of worldly wisdom and clogged with stony obstacles to the gospel? Does it look like it could never bear fruit?

Or has God put a different picture in your mind? Can you see your neighbors filled with joy and worshiping God? Can you see them free of the world's hold on them? Can you see them overcoming every obstacle?

What we see in our minds is called vision. Vision is a clear mental picture of what the future could be like. It must come from God's heart to us through His Word and His Spirit. Vision results in a growing desire to see with our eyes the same picture that we see in our mind. That causes us to **PRAY**, which, like a sharp plow, breaks up hard ground in the spiritual world.

The gospel is our seed, which we plant as we **EVANGELIZE**. The Bible promises that the more seeds we plant, the bigger the harvest will be.

When the harvest is ready, we need to **GATHER TOGETHER** the new believers into groups called **CHURCHES**. Churches are people, not buildings – people who know and love God and who **MAKE DISCIPLES** and help them become more like Jesus.

Those who are more mature **DEVELOP LEADERS** in the churches and continue the cycle.

And as a result, churches **MULTIPLY!** One becomes two. Ten become twenty. Five hundred become a thousand!

Just like in the Book of Acts!

2. THE GREAT DECLARATION

Read Matthew 16:18

¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

2.1 What did Jesus promise?

I – Jesus – not evangelists, pastors, teachers, deacons or elders – promised He would build an institution.

Jesus never told us to build His church. His vision was much too big for us. He told us to build disciples, one at a time. When we obey that command, He uses those disciples to build His church. And the Father is glorified!

Will – Not may or might or hope to. He will. He gave His absolute promise.

Build – This word is active. It is forward-looking. It shouts, “Progress! Process! Develop! Advance!” Jesus could have quickly created the church, as He did when creating the universe. But He said He would build it, which is a process that takes time. Later in this chapter we will look at the process that the Holy Spirit gave to the Apostle Paul to establish new churches.

This building process has depth – people growing into spiritual maturity. And it has breadth – more people trusting Christ and coming into the church.

My – Jesus owns the church. He bought it with His blood! It is not the pastor’s church or the church of the elders or deacons. The church belongs to Jesus.

Church – The focus of Jesus was to build His church. The church is not a building. It is the people called and chosen by God. He did not say He would build His denomination, seminary, bookstore, radio station or missions organization. All of those are good, but they are to serve Christ’s church. The church is God’s method for completing the Great Commission.

3. THE GREAT CONCLUSION

Read Matthew 24:14

¹⁴“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

3.1 When did Jesus say the end would come?

Sitting on the Mount of Olives, His disciples asked Jesus when the end of the world would come. Because He had a big vision, His answer was a lot bigger than their question.

Jesus did not give them a date and time. He gave them a measurement. In short, He told His disciples, “As soon as the gospel of the Kingdom has been preached to the whole world, to all the nations, the end will come. In the meantime, your job is to obey Me so that it will happen.”

The words “world” and “nations” do not mean the same thing. In Greek, the original language of the New Testament, “world” refers to the entire earth, and “nations” refers to all the ethnic groups of the earth. So Jesus was saying that the end will come when all the ethnic groups in your country — and all the ethnic groups on earth — hear the gospel.

As we said before, God’s method for completing the Great Commission is the church—the Body of Christ spread throughout the world. So God’s method for preaching the gospel to the whole world is to start new churches where there are none. When you and your church plant new churches, the world is one step closer to the return of Jesus!

Just what is this gospel of which Jesus spoke? The gospel of the Kingdom is that Jesus suffered and died to pay the price for our sins AND that He is alive today and rules God’s Kingdom. After He made this promise, Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified! His was not a terrible defeat . . . it was the greatest victory in history! He died, but He is not dead. He was raised from the dead by the boundless power of the Holy Spirit. After He arose, He gave another strategic command to all of us through His original disciples.

4. THE GREAT COMMISSION

Read Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

4.1 What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

Go! Make disciples! Baptize! Teach!

These are clear, direct commands. They are not suggestions or recommendations. They are not great ideas or great opinions. This is nothing less than Almighty God’s Great Commission.

Jesus begins by making it clear that God the Father has given Him all the authority, both in heaven and on earth, over everything we can see and everything we cannot see – unlimited and unrestricted. This implies that we should pay close attention to what else He has to say.

4.2 What is the main command in verses 19 and 20?

This passage was originally written in Greek. In that language, words have different emphases. Most words have normal emphasis – like someone talking in an ordinary conversation. Other words have more emphasis – like a person speaking louder to get someone’s attention. Then a few words have great emphasis. They are like a person shouting loudly!

“Make disciples” has the “shout loudly” emphasis. So “make disciples” was Jesus’ main command in these verses. We are to do this just as He did – by going, by baptizing and by teaching people to obey all the things that Jesus taught us.

4.3 What promise did Jesus make in the Great Commission?

He promised that we do not have to go alone to make disciples, baptize or teach. Jesus did not issue His orders, pat us on the back and wish us luck.

He said, “Come on, we’re going together. Step by step. Side by side. Hand in hand. Everywhere and always.”

But do not be mistaken. He is not joining our mission. We are joining His!

4.4 Are we really obeying the Great Commission?

The church talks a lot about the Great Commission. But do we really obey it? Let's take a little closer look.

	Savior's Strategy (Healthy Body)	Satan's Substitute (Diseased Body)
WHO	<p>SOLDIERS <i>Employ all available personnel.</i> 1. All believers are at it all the time. 2. Acts 2:42-47 – First 200 years Christianity took off like wildfire – through simple disciples, not trained theologians.</p>	<p>SPECTATORS <i>Only clergy are qualified</i> 1. Division into clergy and laity 2. "Professionals" do spiritual work. 3. "Laymen" support professionals. 4. Church members are spectators.</p>
WHERE	<p>ALL THE NATIONS <i>Enlarge the vision</i> 1. God wants us to think as big as possible! 2. How big is your vision? • All the nations? • Or just my country? • Or just my city? • Or just my neighborhood?</p>	<p>ME AND MY CHURCH <i>Shrink the vision</i> 1. Satan wants us to think as small as possible! 2. How small is your vision? • Me, myself and I • My family and friends • Me and my church</p>
WHAT	<p>MAKE DISCIPLES 1. Start with evangelism 2. Continue with discipleship 3. Everyone teach someone else 4. Great Commission is for everybody</p>	<p>ANYTHING BUT MAKE DISCIPLES! 1. They might say no and embarrass me. 2. Too much trouble. I'm not qualified. 3. I'm content as a sermon-taster. 4. I'm just a Cafeteria Christian. I sample what I like and leave the rest.</p>
HOW	<p>GO AND TELL <i>Make disciples as we go.</i></p>	<p>COME AND HEAR 1. Satan twists "Go and tell" into "Come and hear." 2. He gets us to focus on programs inside the church instead of people outside the church. 3. Like stopping an epidemic by isolating the carriers, Satan stops the spread of Christianity by quarantining believers.</p>

Our prayer for you and your church is that you would make disciples who have an impact on all the nations and that your church becomes a **WORLD MISSIONS TRAINING CENTER**.

5. THE GREAT PROMISE

Read Luke 24: 46-53

⁴⁶He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” ⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. ⁵²Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. ⁵³And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.

5.1 What did the disciples see during the last moments that Jesus was physically on earth?

As Jesus lifted up His hands and blessed the disciples, they saw the awful wounds in His hands. As He was carried up into heaven, they looked up and saw the terrible holes in His feet – wounds of love and grace.

We are to always remember His love and how much He sacrificed for us. But the disciples were to remember something else too, which filled them with great joy, overflowing with praise.

“Remember to wait in the city until I send you the power you need to obey the commands I have given you.” That’s what they needed to remember.

Luke began his account of the early church in the book of Acts in the same way that he ended the book of Luke.

Jesus knew that the early church did not have the power to obey the Great Commission. He knew they needed supernatural power and guidance in addition to vision and obedience, so He promised that the Holy Spirit would be sent to indwell them and give them that power.

Read Acts 1: 8-11

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

5.2 What was this power going to enable them to do? Where?

The key verse of the book is Acts 1:8. Jesus knew that the early disciples needed supernatural power and guidance. This power was to enable them to be His witnesses to the entire world.

We must do the same. We must wait on the Holy Spirit, for the power that comes only from Him. We must seek to hear from Him. Get direction from Him and join Him in the work He is doing. When we work on our own, we only see the results that we can accomplish, which is not sufficient to complete the Great Commission.

After Jesus gave this promise and instructions with what to do with this power, He returned to heaven.

But then Luke added something that must have thrilled the disciples.

“Jesus is coming again,” declared a couple of angels.

That means that although you and I were not there to watch Him leave, we may be here to see Him return!

First Steps

What will YOU be doing when Jesus returns?

We do not want to be watching something we should not be watching when He returns. We do not want to be saying or doing or reading something we should not be when He returns. We do not even want to merely be busy when He returns.

We all hope to be obeying His commands, so we can hear Him say those sweet words: “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Now let’s look at how Christians obeyed Jesus’ commands in the 1st century.

6. FIRST CENTURY MODELS

God brought great glory to Himself in the 1st century. The book of Acts is full of stories of how God worked through His people to advance His kingdom.

Why do we not see His glory now in the 21st century as the people of the 1st century did in the book of Acts? Is it perhaps that we are not obeying His commands? The challenge of the church in the 21st century is to be more like the church of the 1st century! Sometimes we do not need something new . . . but we need to go back to the basics.

In the book of Acts, the writer, Luke, gave us a record of how the Holy Spirit worked in the early church. We can learn much from the early church. It is the same Holy Spirit who lives in us and empowers us to be witnesses 20 centuries later!

We have looked at four important Scriptures that represent the vision of Jesus Christ – the Great Declaration, the Great Conclusion, the Great Commission and the Great Promise.

Now we come to an important place in the story! Here is a good question! “Having heard these words from Jesus, how did the early church obey these words?” Or another way to ask it is, “What did they do under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to put Jesus’ vision into action in the 1st century?”

Let’s look at some verses in the book of Acts that show us how God brought great glory to Himself in the first century.

Read Acts 1:15

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty)

6.1 How many disciples did Jesus start with?

Only 120 people! What an incredible vision He had! But Jesus could see beyond a small group of followers to the day when “this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world.”

Read Acts 2:47

⁴⁷. . . praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

6.2 Who made the church grow? Who was added every day?

It was the Lord who “added to the church daily those who were being saved.” He worked through His people; and God, not men, received all the glory!

God first ADDED new BELIEVERS.

How would you feel if He added another new believer to your congregation every day for the next year? At least 7 every week? Thirty every month? Over 360 new believers every year? We all would be shouting, “Hallelujah!” But this was only the first step of God bringing glory to Himself in the first century.

Read Acts 5:14

¹⁴Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.

6.3 How did God show even more of His glory?

Now Luke is talking about MULTITUDES of BELIEVERS being added – multiplying and magnifying God’s glory!

Not just one or two a day, but a great many. How many? Perhaps dozens. Hundreds. Thousands.

Read Acts 6:1

¹In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

6.4 Who was increasing now?

God brought even more glory to Himself by increasing the number of DISCIPLES.

Unfortunately, today often there are believers who do not continue to grow as disciples. They put their faith in Christ, but do not continue to learn and grow and obey.

Disciples are life-long learners and followers of Christ. They live and serve as God intended. Their commitment to Christ continues to increase. They make other disciples, as Jesus commanded.

Read Acts 6:7

⁷So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.

6.5 How did multiplication bring more glory to God?

Luke was no longer talking about addition. Kingdom growth began to accelerate at light speed because “the number of the disciples was MULTIPLYING.”

Kingdom growth accelerated as disciples were being multiplied. Multiplication has much more impact than addition.

6.6 Which option would you choose?

Try to imagine it like someone wanting to give you a gift, and you are given two choices. The first option is for you to get 3000 grains of rice every single day for one month. The second option is for you to receive one grain of rice the first day, two the second day, four the third day and so on – doubling the amount every day for one month.

If you chose 3000 grains of rice a day, you would receive 93,000 at the end of the month. That would be a huge blessing!

But you would have missed an even bigger blessing. If you decided to start with one grain and double it every day for 31 days, you would receive more than 2 billion grains of rice!

The power of multiplication is far greater than addition. A profession of faith is wonderful. But evangelism is a ministry of addition. Evangelism becomes a ministry of multiplication only when the new believers are discipled. As they become disciples who evangelize and then disciple others, God’s Kingdom expands much more effectively. And then we are obeying Christ’s command to “make disciples.”

Remember what God did in Acts 2:41? 3,000 people were saved the day Peter preached. A big blessing!

But God displayed even more of His power when He began to multiply disciples.

How Did God Glorify Himself in the 1st Century?

- Acts 1:15** All this started with only 120 people!
- Acts 2:47** New BELIEVERS ADDED daily
- Acts 5:14** MULTITUDES of new BELIEVERS added
- Acts 6:1** DISCIPLES increasing
- Acts 6:7** DISCIPLES MULTIPLYING
- Acts 9:31** CHURCHES MULTIPLYING
- Acts 19:10** ALL in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus

Read Acts 9:31

³¹Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

6.7 What is multiplying now?

As disciples were multiplied, something else began to multiply! Not only believers and disciples, but now entire churches were multiplying!

Hallelujah!

God had launched the first Church Planting Movement! What is a Church Planting Movement? It is a rapid and exponential increase in indigenous churches planting churches within a people group or population segment. (David Garrison in the booklet *Church Planting Movements*)

How do we participate in a Church Planting Movement that is a movement of the Holy Spirit? We obey and do what God designed us to do. Disciples lead others to Christ and disciple them. Workers disciple new workers. Leaders multiply new leaders. Pastors mentor and multiply new pastors. Then Jesus in His grace will use these disciples, workers, leaders and pastors to build His church as He expands His Kingdom.

God Made You Like a Mango Tree

Mangos originated in East India, Burma and the Andaman Islands bordering the Bay of Bengal. Around the 5th century B.C., Buddhist monks are believed to have introduced the mango to Malaysia and eastern Asia. Persian traders took the mango into the Middle East and Africa. From there the Portuguese took it to Brazil and the West Indies. Mango cultivars arrived in Florida in the 1830's and in California in the 1880's.



Much of Africa and Latin America now are covered with mango trees. How did so many mango trees grow there? Multiplication! Each mango tree simply did what God designed it to do. It reproduced seeds, which grew into new trees, which produced more seeds, which grew into more trees, which

Read Acts 19:9, 10

⁹But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

6.8 Has the Great Commission ever been completed in any area?

YES! In the first century as Paul was focusing on making disciples, all in that region of the world heard the word of the Lord Jesus. Some scholars believe that Luke referred to all of Asia Minor, between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, including Asian Turkey!

God had completed the Great Commission in that region at that time.

That is our prayer for your city, country and people! That God would ignite a church planting movement! That's why we call this curriculum "Mobilizing Your Church into God's Harvest Fields!"

How sad that the church for so long has settled for a few new believers now and then or a family that transfers its membership from somebody else's congregation. How little glory God has received, and how happy we have made God's enemies.

Do you want to see God's glory in the 21st century like in the 1st century?

Then it is time to wake up, to rub the sleep out of our eyes, and to repent for our laziness and lack of passion and to obey God. The moment we begin to **do** what He has commanded us to do - **His way**, in the power of the Holy Spirit - God will rush to do His part. And we will see strong, healthy discipling churches popping up throughout the world like fruit on a tree.

The key words are "do" and "His way."

And then God will again ignite a Church Planting Movement. He is looking for men and women eager to throw themselves into the fire so that He can fan the flames out of our control.

Does this describe you?

It is a good description of a man named Paul.

7. ANOTHER FIRST CENTURY MODEL

Jesus was a visionary. He saw far beyond anything that was immediately in front of him. When His natural eyes saw leprosy, His spirit saw clean, clear flesh. When His natural eyes saw a corpse, His spiritual eyes saw a little girl playing and walking around the room. Because He had a vision given to Him by His Father, Jesus, “who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

Paul was another man of vision.

Read Acts 14:21-28

²¹They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²²strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said. ²³Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. ²⁴After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, ²⁵and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. (*emphasis added*)

Let’s look at Paul’s model of ministry.



1. PRAY:

Paul prayed and taught his disciples to pray. And as they prayed, God directed them to new areas. (*Acts 14:23*)



2. EVANGELIZE:

Paul pointed to Jesus, telling everyone the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. (*Acts 14:21*)



3. MAKE DISCIPLES:

Paul disciplined new believers, helping them to live like followers of Jesus, even when they were persecuted. (*Acts 14:21-22*)



4. GATHER TOGETHER:

Paul gathered the new believers into new churches. He did not leave them alone, but always brought them together in community, so that they could help and encourage one another and establish a lasting witness and presence of Jesus Christ in the community. (*Acts 14:23*)



5. DEVELOP LEADERS:

Paul appointed and disciplined leaders. He knew he could not do the work alone, so he always worked in a team, beginning with Barnabas. (*Acts 14:23*)



6. MULTIPLY CHURCHES:

The church in Antioch planted new churches through Paul and his ministry team. The Antioch church is a good model of a multiplying church. It even sent its senior leaders to plant new churches. (*Acts 14:26-28*)

May God use you and your congregation as powerfully today as He used Paul and his team in the 1st century. May everyone in your country hear the gospel of the Kingdom of God and have the opportunity to trust Him as their personal Savior. May God use you and your church as a World Missions Training Center!

First Steps

Is the Lord calling you to follow Paul's example and plant a new church? See question 1 of the Strategy Worksheet.

If your answer is "YES," the rest of this manual will help you obey the commands of Jesus and follow the model of Paul by planting a new church. Each chapter focuses on one of the parts of Paul's ministry: prayer, evangelism, discipleship, gathering believers together into churches, developing new leaders, and planting new churches.

There are many "**FIRST STEPS**" challenges in this manual. They will help you develop a practical plan to plant a new church. They are also listed on the Strategy Worksheet starting on page 107. Write down your answers to the "First Steps" challenges on the Strategy Worksheet as your church team discusses them. When you finish, you will have a plan to put into action!

8. WHAT IS e3 PARTNERS MINISTRY?

e3 Partners Ministry is focused on these three things:

EQUIP God's people to
EVANGELIZE His world and
ESTABLISH His church.

This First Steps manual is one of the resources available from e3 Partners Ministry to help you as a pastor or leader mobilize your church to **EQUIP, EVANGELIZE** and **ESTABLISH**. For additional resources, visit our web site at www.e3partners.org/materials.

What God Can Do!

John Chen grew up to be a pastor like his father. And, like his father, John planted a new church and led 50 to 60 people to Christ every year.

In 2000, after two decades of pastoring and church planting in Taiwan, John and his wife, Hope, answered God's call to become strategy coordinators in a large urban area on China's mainland. The area, we will call it Nandong, teemed with millions of men, women and children. Factories without number were choked with workers; every day thousands more poured in looking for jobs.

At first, John & Hope were overwhelmed. But, they learned three principles that changed their lives, their ministry—and the country where they moved.

- First, they could not do the job alone.
- Second, training others to plant churches was better than planting a church.
- Third, it is better still to train trainers to train church planters to plant even more churches.

John knew that not everyone is suited to be a church planter. At the same time, he knew that God could use anyone. But how could John tell who would or would not make an effective church planter? Simple. Train everybody. Those who do, are. Those who do not, are not.

At first, John found only three towns in Nandong with any churches. And these churches had a total membership of 250 people.



John set an ambitious goal of planting a church in every town in the district — 200 new churches!

Not surprisingly, when John shared his goal with a local pastor, the man shook his head and suggested that John “go back home.” But John persisted, and the pastor allowed him to teach a church-planting class to anyone in his congregation that was interested. Most were farmers, so classes were held at night. Thirty showed up the first week.

John quickly discovered two obstacles that prevented these men from being effective evangelists. They didn't know what to say or who to tell.



So John had them make a list of all the lost people they knew and pick the five that God wanted them to share with first. Then he taught that each of them had a unique, three-part story to tell: 1) What they were like before Jesus, 2) How they met Jesus, and 3) What their life has been like since meeting Jesus.

He had each trainee write his story on a single sheet of paper. They were a little nervous at first, so John had them read it out loud five times, then share with one another. And soon the trainees were excited and confident.



In the weeks that followed, John taught them how to establish new converts in the fundamentals of the faith. Then it was time to send them out.

“Go this week and share your story with the five people at the top of your list. If you can’t, go to the next five! When you return next week, we’ll see what God has done.”

Only 17 did the assignment. But one farmer had shared with 11 people.

As each trainee told the group about their experiences, they drew insights and encouragement from one another. After class, John said, “If you choose not to share with anyone this week, you should not come to the class next week.” This added accountability and focused the trainees on doing and not just hearing.

The results surprised even the Chens.



After just two months, they had started 20 small groups that were becoming churches. Seven months later, there were 327 small groups, 4,000 newly-baptized believers, and churches in 17 towns. The first year ended with 908 house churches and more than 12,000 new Christians.

Like Jesus’ disciples, the trainees found that in every village God had prepared a Person of Peace. One was an old farmer who had never before planted a church. Within two months, he started a dozen house churches—110 in a year.

His lifestyle was the key to his effectiveness. Every morning from 5 to 7, he prayed and read his Bible. Then he worked in the fields until 5 p.m., when he went home for dinner and family time. At 7 p.m., he went back out and “worked in God’s fields until midnight.”

That lifestyle is common in what has become the largest church planting movement in history.

In another town, one year after a 67-year-old woman became a Christian, she had led more than 60 families to Christ.

“I asked her to take me out and show me how she does it,” John said. “She tells people that she was weak and then Jesus saved her. Then she invites them to a Bible study at her house.



“We teach all the new believers how to have a Bible study and a daily quiet time,” he explained, “so they can do this forever. Then we teach them what a church is about and how to organize into a church so that they can grow together in Christ.

“Once, we lost track of a Christian factory worker we had trained. After six months, we found that he had been transferred to another large factory with 10,000 workers. During that time, he had started 70 small groups and had seen 10 generations of reproduction (churches planting churches).”



If you ask John the secret of this powerful movement, he will pull up his pant legs and show you the calluses on his knees. He teaches trainees to pray for the Holy Spirit’s anointing, to pray for the lost all around them, to pray as they go into each witnessing situation, and to pray for the blood of Jesus to protect them from everything Satan will throw against them.

Every morning after two hours of prayer, John goes into the harvest fields. Every day he tells his simple story, looks for those God has called out, and trains others to do the same.

“You never know who God is going to use,” he says with a smile, “so we keep training everybody!” Today, the movement is spreading across several districts and shows no sign of slowing.



- **After 2 months: 20 small groups were started**
- **After 6 months: 327 house churches, with 4,000 baptized**
- **After one year: 908 house churches, with 12,000 baptized**
- **The following year: 3,535 new churches, with more than 53,430 baptisms**
- **First six months of the third year: 9,320 new churches and 104,542 baptisms**
- **End of 3rd year: 15,000 new churches and more than 160,000 baptized believers**

The secret is not found in techniques or a new curriculum. It is hidden in the vision, training, passion, co-laborers and accountability.

Vision prevents confusion. Training yields confidence. Passion drives momentum. A steady supply of trained co-laborers enables your team to freely embrace every new opportunity. And accountability produces consistent results.

This true story is adapted from David Garrison's book *Church Planting Movements*. You can buy a copy of this book online at www.churchplantingmovements.com

Weave It Together

Take another look at the diagram on the next page. Is church planting a sequence of steps? Or do you do it all at once?

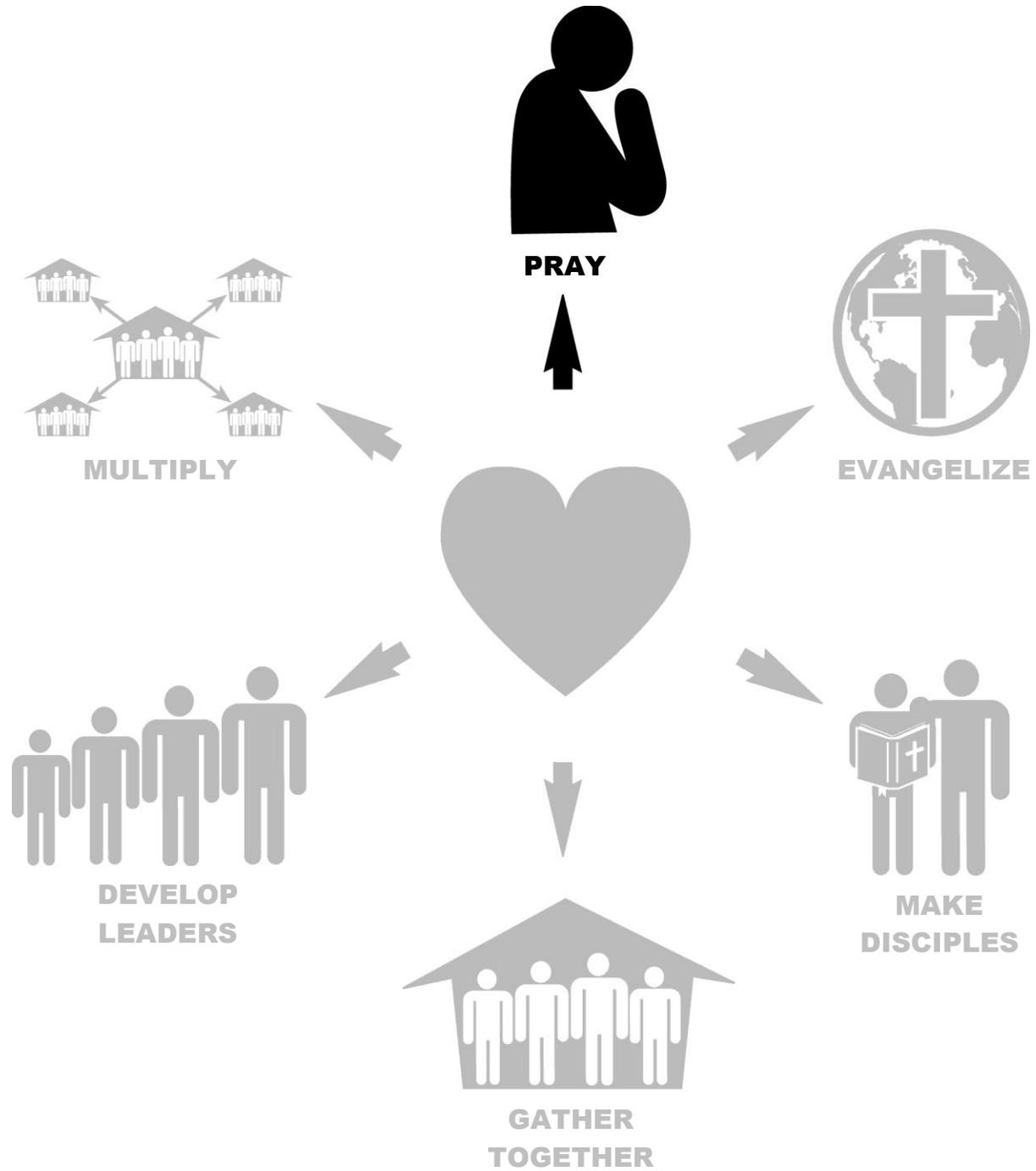
Church planting is not a 1-2-3 process to be strictly followed in order. It all works together.

For example, sometimes discipleship comes before evangelism! Sometimes people are interested in learning about the Bible and Christianity before they put their faith in Christ. So you may gather them together and have simple Bible discussions before you share the gospel.

Do not stop doing one thing to start the next. For example, do not stop praying when you start to evangelize. Do everything together as circumstances require and the Holy Spirit leads.

Think of a rope. Several strands are woven together, over and under one another, supporting and reinforcing one another. And the strength of the rope is far greater than the combined strength of the individual strands.

So too, the strongest church planting ministry results from allowing the Holy Spirit to weave together the parts of the church planting process like a skilled rope maker.





P R A Y

TEACHING TIP

There is a hand signal for each of the six parts of the Apostle Paul's church planting ministry. The one for "Pray" is pictured above. Teach your students these hand signals. They will help them remember the parts of Paul's ministry.



PRAY

MAIN IDEAS

- Prayer is the tool God gives us to break up hardened spiritual soil and prepare it to receive the seed of the gospel.
- Your “First Steps” challenge is to develop a prayer strategy that gets your people out among the people they want to reach for Christ as you start a new church.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: PRAY

After surveying potential fields for harvest, a farmer selects a place to begin. Usually, the soil is too hard, has too many rocks or is too thick with weeds to receive the seed. It needs to be prepared first.

The success of the harvest is affected by the quality of the soil. Packed soil must be loosened. Rocks and weeds must be removed.

The farmer’s tools are plows and rakes and hoes.

The church’s tool is strategic, Spirit-led prayer.

Now we will look at several strategic things to pray.

2. PRAY FOR LABORERS

2.1 What does Jesus see as the problem?

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Luke 10:1-3

¹After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ²He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves.”

Often, we feel discouraged and believe that no one wants to hear the gospel. That is not how Jesus saw it. According to Jesus, the “harvest is plentiful.” In your country, God is already working among many people, preparing them to hear His good news. The problem, according to Jesus, is not with the harvest; but with the workers. There are not enough workers. And, often, the workers cannot see the harvest that is right before them.

In these passages, Jesus commands us to pray, asking the Lord to send out workers into the harvest. The focus of this prayer is church mobilization. It says, “Get up, Church! Get out to the fields, and start gathering the harvest. Everything is ripe. Move now, before it dries up and rots away!”

Application Tip:

Get as many people as possible praying the Luke 10:2 prayer for workers in the harvest.

Have your whole team set their watches or phone alarms to ring at 10:02 to remind them to “ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the harvest field.”

2.2 What is the difference in these two passages?

In Matthew, Jesus gave this command to his disciples, before He told them to go out and evangelize. Then He told them they would be the answers to their own prayers for laborers.

In Luke 10 Jesus tells the 72 to go out two by two to do evangelism. After he tells them to go out, He tells them to pray for laborers for the harvest.

This difference in timing is significant. Jesus was telling the 72 that they should pray that God would give them new laborers from the new believers they would win to Christ. More laborers were in the harvest! New believers you reach now have the potential to become new workers and new leaders for future harvests.

We need to pray that God will give us fruitful new laborers when we do evangelism. This will only happen if we disciple the new believers!

First Steps

Pray for workers for the harvest and from the harvest.

Who are the people God wants on your church planting team?

See question 5 of the Strategy Worksheet.

3. PRAY FOR A PERSON OF PEACE

Read Luke 10:5-7

⁵“When you enter a house, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; if not, it will return to you. ⁷Stay in that house, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house.”

3.1 Why is finding a Person of Peace important?

When Jesus sent the 72 out to evangelize, He gave specific instructions. He told them to look for a particular kind of person – a “Person of Peace.” When we join God in what He is doing, there will be a great harvest. One of the ways to see where God is working is to find a Person of Peace. A Person of Peace is a gatekeeper to the surrounding community.

3.2 Who is a Person of Peace?

Open to the gospel. A Person of Peace may be an unbeliever who has been prepared by the Holy Spirit and is ready to receive the gospel. Or a Person of Peace may already be a believer. But they always are open to the gospel.

Reputation. A Person of Peace is well-known in their community, whether for good or for bad. Some biblical examples had a good reputation, like Cornelius. Others were well-known for their bad reputations, like the woman at the well. Yet when each accepted Christ, their character was radically changed. God gained the glory for this transformation.

Circle of Influence. A Person of Peace is willing to introduce his or her circle of influence to Christ. They tell others about the great things Jesus has done for them.

Helpful. A Person of Peace is willing to help Christian workers.

3.3 Who are some other Persons of Peace in the Bible?

Lydia was a Gentile worshiper of God. She heard the truths spoken by Paul, and the Lord opened her heart. Not only did she believe, but as a woman of influence, she brought her whole household to believe.
(Acts 10:1-48)

Cornelius began seeking after God before he truly knew who Jesus was. God gave him a vision that he was to go and see Peter. Cornelius was a man of great influence and was spoken of well among the people. After hearing the good news about Jesus, Cornelius and his household believed. Cornelius was a Person of Peace prepared beforehand by God.
(Acts 10:1-48)

The **woman at the well** was a Person of Peace with a bad reputation. But many in her town believed in Jesus because of her testimony. (John 4:4-41)

A team in Slovenia met a woman who lived in the village where they were planting a new church. The team traveled for an hour each way to get to that village. This gracious woman invited the team to stay in her home. The next day, she accepted Christ. She was a Muslim fortuneteller who read tea leaves and coffee grounds to predict the future. Through her circle of influence, 21 people received Christ. They started a house church in her home. After reading the story of Lydia in the Bible, this woman renamed herself “Mama Lydia.”

“When you work with God by going to receptive places (or working through receptive people) that He has made ready, then you are on God’s agenda. It is important to remember to be on His agenda and not ours.”

Carol Davis

“Often the most fertile ground for church planting is found among bad people.”

George Patterson

First Steps

Ask God to give you a Person of Peace to help start your new church. See question 4 of the Strategy Worksheet.

3.4 Pray for your own circle of influence.

Sometimes Persons of Peace can be people who are already within your circle of influence. In any case, you need to pray for the salvation of the people to whom you relate. Take a moment. Look at the list at the end of this chapter entitled “100 People Who Need to Hear.” Write down the names of everyone you know who does not yet know Jesus. List friends, family members, co-workers, classmates, neighbors – everyone you know. If you can, list a hundred.

Then, begin to pray. First, begin to ask God who are the first five people on your list that He wants you to talk to about Jesus. Circle these five names as God leads you. Pray specifically for those five. Jesus said: “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.” (*John 6:44*) So, pray that the Father will draw them. Pray that He will work in their circumstances and in their hearts to prepare them to receive the gospel. Pray that He will open opportunities for you to share the gospel and your own story. Pray that He will give you the courage to step into the opportunities He presents.

Talk with God

In your personal prayer, use the prayer Jesus prayed in Matthew 6:9-13 as a guide.

Relationship: Thank God for being your Father, friend, helper, or something else He has been to you.

Worship: Praise God for who He is and what He has done.

Surrender: Commit to obey and listen to God.

Ask: Ask God for your needs.

Confess: Confess your wrongs, and forgive those who have wronged you.

Protect: Ask God to protect you from temptation and the evil one.

First Steps

Fill out “100 People Who Need to Hear” at the end of this chapter. Begin to pray for them.

4. PAUL'S EXAMPLE

Read Acts 13:1-5

¹In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the work of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

4.1 What were they doing when the Holy Spirit interrupted their meeting?

The church and leaders at Antioch were focused on the Lord. They were praying and fasting. Fervent prayer and worship always precede powerful plans.

The same was true in the Old Testament. Joshua worshiped. (*Joshua 5:13-15*)

Then the Lord gave him the plan that conquered Jericho. (*Joshua 6:2-21*)

The disciples worshiped Jesus on the mountain. (*Matthew 28:16-17*)

Then Jesus gave them His Great Commission plan to bring God's Kingdom down from heaven to earth. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

4.2 What plan did God give to the Antioch church?

The Holy Spirit gave them a clear who, what and where. First, He singled out two men, Barnabas and Saul. Second, He told them they were being called "to the work to which I have called them," which was church planting. Then, He directed them to start by going to Seleucia and Cyprus.

First Steps

How can you follow the example of the early church?

You begin by answering a few questions:

- **When will your church begin to pray?**
See question 2 of the Strategy Worksheet.
- **Where does God want you to plant a new church?**
See question 3 of the Strategy Worksheet.
- **Who is He calling to be on the team to help start a new church?**
See question 5 of the Strategy Worksheet.

"God gave us a place to plant a new church. We began by going through some of the streets praying for the people. We did that for several weeks. When we began the evangelism, everyone prayed to receive Christ on the streets where our church had prayed. Almost no one accepted the Lord on the streets where we had not walked and prayed."

Pastor in Santa Cruz, Bolivia

FIRST STEPS

These prayer tools follow –

1. "100 People who Need to Hear"
2. "Talk with God"



TOOL

100 People Who Need to Hear

Here, list the names of 100 people you know who need to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 28. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 29. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 21. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 22. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |

51. _____	76. _____
52. _____	77. _____
53. _____	78. _____
54. _____	79. _____
55. _____	80. _____
56. _____	81. _____
57. _____	82. _____
58. _____	83. _____
59. _____	84. _____
60. _____	85. _____
61. _____	86. _____
62. _____	87. _____
63. _____	88. _____
64. _____	89. _____
65. _____	90. _____
66. _____	91. _____
67. _____	92. _____
68. _____	93. _____
69. _____	94. _____
70. _____	95. _____
71. _____	96. _____
72. _____	97. _____
73. _____	98. _____
74. _____	99. _____
75. _____	100. _____

*After you have made your list, pray and ask the Lord for guidance.
Then circle the names of the first 5 with whom you will share.*

Pray daily that God will:

1. prepare them to receive the gospel,
2. give you opportunity to share the gospel with them, and
3. give you the courage to take the opportunity He provides.



Talk with God

In "The Lord's Prayer" (*Matthew 6:9-15*), Jesus gave an example of how we should pray. Our hand reminds us of each part of Jesus' model prayer.



1. Palm = Relationship

As the palm is the foundation for our fingers and thumb, time alone with God is the foundation for our personal relationship with Him. (*Matthew 6:6*) We acknowledge that relationship – **"Our Father in heaven. . ."** (*Matthew 6:9*)



2. Thumb = Worship

Our thumb reminds us that we must worship God before we ask for anything – **". . . hallowed be Your name."** (*Matthew 6:9*)



3. First Finger = Surrender

Next we surrender our lives, plans, family, finances, work, future - *everything* -- **"Your kingdom come, Your will be done. . ."** (*Matthew 6:10*)



4. Middle Finger = Ask

Then we ask God to meet our needs – **"Give us this day our daily bread."** (*Matthew 6:11*)



5. Fourth Finger = Forgive

Now we ask God to forgive our sins, and we must forgive others – **"Forgive us as we forgive others."** (*Matthew 6:12*)



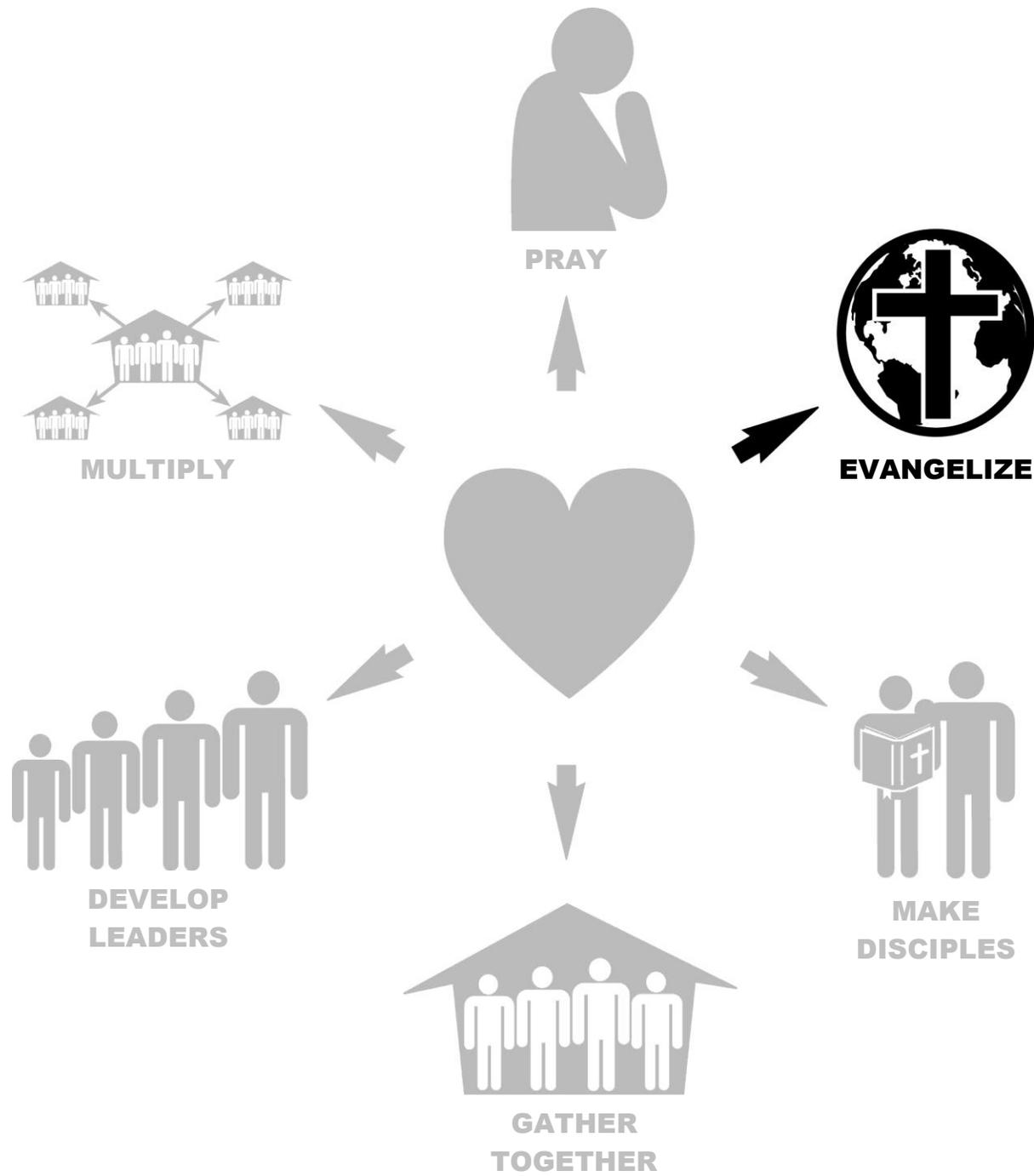
6. Little Finger = Protect

Then we seek protection – **". let us not yield to temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."** (*Matthew 6:13*)



7. Thumb (Again) = Worship

And we end just as we began – we worship Almighty God – **"Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen"** (*Matthew 6:13*).





EVANGELIZE



EVANGELIZE

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus evangelized, reaching across cultural boundaries and turning the conversation to spiritual needs.
- The woman at the well is an example of a Person of Peace who pointed many people to Jesus.
- It is important to understand the basic points of the gospel.
- To effectively present the gospel, it is essential to understand the culture of our audience.
- You need evangelism tools and training to help your church learn how to share their faith.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: EVANGELIZE

After a farmer breaks up the soil in his field, he scatters the seed plentifully. A farmer understands that to see a bountiful harvest he must sow much seed, for not all seed will take root.

The Apostle Paul taught the Corinthian church this principle when he said, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” (2 Corinthians 9:6) Paul was talking about sowing financially, but the principle is the same for evangelism. When you put much seed into good soil, you can expect a great harvest. However, when you put only a few seeds out, you can expect a small harvest.

To establish a church, you need to sow the seed of the gospel in abundance. The more seeds you sow – the more the gospel is presented – the more people will come to faith in Christ. In evangelism, the most common mistake is not evangelizing enough.

“The most common mistake is not evangelizing enough!”

The Lord desires for you to join Him in this work by evangelizing a community that has little or no gospel witness. By getting out into the community and sharing the gospel through relationships, you are sowing spiritual seeds in expectation of a great harvest. If you try to plant a church without sowing the gospel seed abundantly, you will reap sparingly.

2. LIVING WATER

John's gospel gives an account of a woman who met Jesus at Jacob's well one day.

Read John 4:7-10

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"
⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

2.1 What did Jesus want from her?

He asked for a drink of water, a pretty ordinary request on a hot, dry day. Yet it amazed this woman.

2.2 Why was she so surprised?

Jews and Samaritans were separate religious and ethnic groups. They had hated each other for hundreds of years. The Samaritan woman recognized Jesus as a Jew. She expected Jesus to hate her. But, Jesus surprised her when He asked her for a drink. He treated her with humanity, kindness and respect.

- What religious and cultural divisions exist in your community?
- Do you surprise people by reaching across those divides?

Jesus came to save the lost – from all cultural groups – and wants us to reach across cultural barriers.

2.3 How did Jesus respond to her?

Jesus was more interested in healing her soul than in quenching His thirst. So He turned their conversation from the physical to the spiritual. As the conversation continued, the Holy Spirit revealed the woman's history to Jesus, and Jesus revealed His true identity to the woman.

2.4 How did she then respond to Jesus?

Read John 4:28-30 and 39-41

²⁸Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people,
²⁹"Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" ³⁰They came out of the town and made their way toward him. . . . ³⁹Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹And because of his works, many more became believers.

She ran home and told everyone about the amazing man she had met and what He had told her. The city responded by returning with her to see and hear for themselves. Revival broke out.

2.5 What did the disciples learn from this experience?

Read John 4:34-38

³⁴"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. ³⁶Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. ³⁷Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. ³⁸I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."

The disciples did not like Samaritans. They would have preferred to avoid Samaria, altogether. Yet, to their surprise, Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman at the well, and this conversation led to a great spiritual harvest in the village. Jesus tells them: "...open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

The disciples wanted simply to eat lunch and get out of Samaria as quickly as they could. But, Jesus had something else in mind – something more important than lunch. "My food .. is to do the will of him who sent me ..." And His will was to share the gospel with this entire Samaritan village.

Like the disciples, we need to "lift up [our] eyes" and see that the fields are ripe for harvest. Often, we assume that people would not be interested in the gospel or are not worthy of it. Jesus does not think that way.

2.6 What can we learn from the conversation at the well between Jesus and the Samaritan woman?

Reach Across Religious and Cultural Divisions. Jesus surprised the woman when He treated her with kindness and respect, even though she was from a different religious and cultural group. We should do the same.

The Greatest Harvest May Be Where You Least Expect It. The disciples could not imagine that the Samaritans would be interested in God or that God would be interested in the Samaritans. But, the entire village came to faith. Often, the greatest harvest is found among those we consider unworthy or uninterested. We need to open our eyes and see that the fields are ripe for harvest.

Person of Peace is very important. The Samaritan woman is an excellent example of a “Person of Peace.” (see *Pray* chapter) Because of her testimony, her entire village wanted to know about Jesus. The gospel spreads more quickly when we begin with a Person of Peace. Finding one is a top priority.

Evangelize Groups. Most of the time, it is easier to lead a group to Christ and start a new church than to evangelize individuals and form them into groups. Look for groups to evangelize as an important first step to planting a church.

Help New Believers Share Their Testimony. The woman at the well immediately told her neighbors about her encounter with Jesus. Help new believers tell their own story about trusting Christ as their Savior. Use the “Prepare Your Story” tool at the end of this chapter.

Immediately Teach New Believers to Evangelize. New believers can have a big impact for Christ because: 1) they know many non-believers, 2) they are enthusiastic about their new faith, and 3) people often see change in their lives. Challenge them to make a list of people they want to tell about Jesus and then teach them how to do it. Encourage them and hold them accountable. Use the “100 People Who Need to Hear” tool found at the end of the *Pray* chapter.

3. THE GOSPEL

“Gospel” is a religious term that means literally “good news.” Then, “spreading the gospel” simply means “telling the good news.” This simple fact can revolutionize your attitude toward evangelism.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

¹Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received, I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he **appeared** to Peter, and then to the Twelve. ⁶After that, he **appeared** to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he **appeared** to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Yes, but what exactly is this gospel – this good news? Paul answers that question in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. He uses four key words:

- Christ **DIED** for our sins.
- He was **BURIED**.
- He was **RAISED**.
- He **APPEARED**.

In short, Christ's death for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection is THE good news.

But, evangelism does not just explain. It also invites people to place their faith in Christ's payment for their sins. So, the basic points to cover are:

- You are a sinner, and sin separates us from God. (*Romans 3:23*)
- Christ died for your sin and arose. (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4*)
- You must trust only in Christ to receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. (*John 14:6 and Romans 10:9*)

These training materials are intended to help you clearly and concisely explain this message of salvation. It will also help you in two of the most challenging aspects of personal evangelism:

- initiating a conversation about Christ's offer of salvation
- showing the need to personally accept Christ as Savior

Too often, we tell people about Jesus but neglect to invite them to trust Jesus. As it has been said:

INFORMATION without an **INVITATION** is merely **EDUCATION**.
Conversely,

An **INVITATION** without **INFORMATION** is merely **EXHORTATION**.
But,

INFORMATION with an **INVITATION** is **EVANGELISM**.

Biblical evangelism is explaining the death, burial and resurrection of Christ **AND** inviting people to turn from their sin and self-effort to trust in Christ as the only way to forgiveness and eternal life.

4. COMMUNICATION: ADAPTING TO OUR AUDIENCE.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

¹⁹Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

4.1 What were the divisions in Paul's world?

Paul worked in a complicated world. There were many different cultures; many different ethnic groups; many different religions. These different groups wore different clothes, ate different food, had different customs, and spoke different languages.

4.2 How did Paul deal with these divisions?

Paul did not expect different people to adapt to him. He adapted himself to them – “for the sake of the gospel.” He became “all things to all men” to “save some.” We need to do the same.

If we are going to communicate effectively to people who do not know Christ, it is important that we communicate in a way they can understand.

For example, are there religious words you use in church that are not commonly used by the people around you who do not know Christ? Does the Christian church use different names for the prophets or the Bible than the surrounding people who do not know Christ? Are there other words you could use that would be more familiar and more readily understood?

We can never compromise the message. But we must communicate the message in a manner that is understandable to our audience.

First Steps

What evangelism method will you use to share the gospel?

See question 6 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Steps

When will you train your church planting team (or your church) to use this evangelism method?

See question 7 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Steps

When will you train your church planting team (or your church) to tell their personal story or testimony?

See question 8 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Step

When and how will you and the church planting team begin to evangelize the community where you are planting a new church? *See question 9 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

FIRST STEPS

1. **Immediately teach new believers (and everyone else) how to share their personal story.** Use the following tool:
 - “Prepare Your Story”
2. **Immediately teach new believers (and everyone else) how to evangelize.** Use one of the following tools:
 - “Using the EvangeCube & the EvangeCard”
 - “Sharing the EvangeCube or EvangeCard as a Story”
 - Other reproducible and transferable methods appropriate for your culture



PREPARE YOUR STORY

You will need to prepare your story and be prepared to share it with people when you tell them about Jesus. Here are some ideas –

Before following Christ: Describing feelings is helpful (e.g., pain, loneliness, emptiness, uncertainty of eternity, etc.), but avoid needless sin details. Do not spend 5 minutes on sin versus only 30 seconds on salvation and your new life!

How I became a Christian: Make sure this section gives the gospel! Your testimony may be the only chance for someone to hear it! The gospel is: We are sinners who are saved only when we put our faith in Christ, who died for our sins, was buried, and raised. Scripture does not say that we were saved by ‘walking the aisle’, or ‘asking Jesus into our hearts’, or other Christian jargon. Be clear. Avoid religious terms.

Today my life as a Christian is: Tell how Jesus changed your life. Tell of the joy, peace and forgiveness Jesus gave.

If you accepted Christ as a child – tell a more current story: Some of us made a commitment to Christ at an early age. That is a great blessing! But, it makes it difficult to tell a story about our life before Christ. It may be more helpful to talk about something God has done in your life more recently. Perhaps he helped you through financial difficulty, or helped you gain victory over a particular sin, or helped with some other problem.

Keep it brief – 3 minutes or less: Effective evangelism is not boring. If you talk too long about yourself, people will lose interest.

Invite a response. Your story should ask for a response. End with a question that will help you gauge the hearer’s level of spiritual interest. Perhaps something like: “Would you like to know how you can be forgiven?” or “Would you like God to change your life?”

Use this as a guide for writing your story. You are welcome to use some of the same phrases!

Hello, my name is Gema Pertiwi.

I live in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Before following Christ, I tried to become happy by making money, going to parties, and living my way. But these things only made me feel empty. I knew I was sinning against God.

I realized I needed for God to save me from my sins.

(How I became a Christian) Then some friends showed me that the Bible says that God loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. Jesus was buried, and after 3 days, God raised Him from the dead. The Bible says that those who trust in Jesus to forgive their sins will have eternal life with God. So that day, I put my trust in Jesus alone to forgive me of my sins.

Today my life as a Christian is full of joy, peace, and purpose. I know that God loves me and has forgiven me. Best of all, I know that I have eternal life with God.

Would you like to know how you can have eternal life with God?

NOW WRITE YOUR PERSONAL STORY!

Your story is a **vital tool** that you will use as you share the gospel. Write it **briefly** below. Then practice saying it to others. God will use His work in your life to draw others to faith in Himself.

Hello, my name is _____

I live in _____

Before following Christ, _____

I realized I needed _____

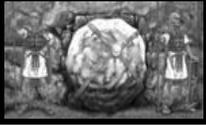
(How I became a Christian – include a BRIEF gospel presentation) _____

Today my life as a Christian is _____

Would you like to know how you can receive forgiveness and have eternal life with God?



THE EVANGECUBE & EVANGECARD

	<p>GOD loves you.</p>	<p>John 3:16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The light represents God. (1John 1:5) * God is perfect and without sin. (Psalm 18:30) * God loves us! (1 John 4:9, 16) * God doesn't want us to perish, but to have everlasting life. (2 Peter 3:9)
	<p>YOU are a sinner.</p>	<p>Romans 3:23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The figure represents every person. (Isaiah 53:6) * The darkness represents our sin. (John 3:19) * Sin is a willful violation of God's law. (Romans 8:5-8) * Our sin separates us from God. (Isaiah 59:2)
	<p>JESUS died for your sins.</p>	<p>Romans 5:8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to earth as a man. (1 John 4:2) * Jesus loved us so much that He paid the price for our sins. (1 John 3:16)
	<p>Jesus was BURIED.</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Men buried Jesus in a tomb. (Matthew 27:59) * They rolled a huge stone in front of it. (Matthew 27:60) * Soldiers guarded the tomb. (Matt. 27:65-66)
	<p>God RAISED Jesus.</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God sent an angel to roll away the big stone and the soldiers ran away. (Matthew 28:2, 11) * God raised Jesus from the dead! (Matt. 28:6) * Soon afterward, God took Jesus back to heaven. (Luke 24:50-51) * Jesus paid the price for our sin, and Jesus conquered death. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)
	<p>Jesus is the only WAY to God.</p>	<p>John 14:6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus is the only way we can come to God. (Acts 4:12) * Through Jesus, we can be forgiven of all our sins and be with God forever. (John 6:40) * Just knowing about these things is not enough! We must choose to put our faith in Jesus; to trust Jesus to save us from sin. (Romans 5:1-2)
	<p>BELIEVE in Jesus as your Savior.</p>	<p>Romans 10:9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The penalty of sin is death; but eternal life through Jesus is a free gift of God. (Rom. 6:23) * What choice will you make? Trust in Jesus to be forgiven and have eternal life? Or Reject Jesus and suffer eternal punishment?

			<p>* Ask, "Would you like to trust Jesus right now to be your Savior?" If the answer is "yes," continue with this process, otherwise review appropriate concepts listed above to answer questions the person might have.</p> <p>SINNER'S PRAYER:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God, thank you for loving me. - I confess that I have sinned against you. - I believe that your Son, Jesus, died on the cross to pay for my sins and that you raised Him from the dead. - I now trust only in Jesus for forgiveness for my sins. - I confess that Jesus is my Savior. - Thank you, God, for your gift of eternal life. - I pray in Jesus' name. Amen
	<p>You became a CHILD of God.</p>	<p>John 1:12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you became part of the family of God. (Rom. 8:16) * God will help strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:9) * Live daily in God's light to enjoy God's blessings. (1 John 1:7)
	<p>You CROSSED from death to life.</p>	<p>John 5:24</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * When you trusted Jesus as your Savior, you crossed from death to life. (Romans 8:1-2) * The resurrected Jesus gives us life. (Galations 2:20) * The life Jesus gives is abundant and eternal. (John 10:10b)
	<p>LOVE God and all people.</p>	<p>Matthew 22:37-39</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * We respond to God's love for us by loving God and each other. (1 John 4:7)
	<p>STUDY the Bible daily.</p>	<p>Romans 15:4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Bible tells us how God wants us to live. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
	<p>PRAY to God continually.</p>	<p>Philippians 4:6</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * God wants to have constant conversation with us. (1 Thessalonians 5:17) * Talk to God about both your joys and your concerns. (Ephesians 6:18)
	<p>MEET regularly with other Christians.</p>	<p>Hebrews 10:25</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jesus' presence is especially evident when believers are together. (Matthew 18:20)
	<p>TELL others the Good News about Jesus.</p>	<p>1 Peter 3:15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Always be ready to tell about Jesus. (Acts 1:8) * Help spread the message of Jesus around the world. (Matthew 28:19-20)



SHARING the EVANGECUBE TOOL or EVANGECARD as a STORY

In some cultures you will find it is more effective to share the EvangeCube as a story rather than as a list of facts about the gospel. The story below illustrates how this can be done.



Panel 1 – God

This bright light (*point to the light*) represents the one true God who created the whole world. Before time began God existed. He spoke and created the heavens and the earth and everything in it by His mighty power! God saw all He had made, and it was very good!



Panel 1 – Man

Then He created man and woman in His own image to have a special relationship with Him. (*point to the man*) He placed the man and the woman he loved in a beautiful garden. It was a perfect place. There was no hunger, no sickness, and no pain. The man and the woman had a wonderful relationship with each other and with God. God told them that they could eat and enjoy the fruit from any tree in the garden except for one. He walked and talked with them and took good care of them.

Then one day, they disobeyed God and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree. Suddenly, they felt shame for the first time. They tried to hide from God. Their disobedience broke their relationship with God. And when they disobeyed God, the darkness (*point to the darkness around the man*) of evil and death entered the world. Even though God loved them, He had to put them out of the perfect garden. God is holy, and their disobedience separated them from God. Intimacy with Him was gone. Since that time, all of us, too, have sinned. We are all separated from God. There is nothing mankind on its own can do to bridge this separation. (*open/close the panel to show separation*) But God still loves us and wants a relationship with us.

Since that time, the first man and woman have had many, many descendants. Some followed God, but many were disobedient, just like the first man and woman. God sent spokesmen to tell them how to have a right relationship with Him. One of these spokesmen was the prophet Isaiah. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised He would send a Savior who would take their sins upon Himself. He said that this Savior would be whipped and beaten and would die for our sins, but that God would raise Him from the dead. Many promises were given about His life and death. God's spokesmen promised that the Savior would be born of a virgin and that He would be called "God With Us." The people waited expectantly for the promised Savior, the Messiah.

After many years, God kept His promise. He sent His very own Son, Yeshua (Jesus). As promised, Jesus was miraculously born of a virgin. Jesus performed many miracles. He healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, cast out demons, and even raised the dead, proving that He was the promised Savior. Jesus even promised that He would give forgiveness and eternal life to everyone believes in Him. While some people believed in Him, others hated Him.



Panel 2

The ones who did not believe were furious, and they convinced the government to execute Jesus. Late one night, they sent soldiers to arrest Jesus. One of Jesus' followers tried to fight back with a sword. Jesus told him to put his sword away. *"Don't you know that I could ask God, and He would send thousands of angels to protect Me."* Jesus also said, *"No one takes my life from Me. I lay it down willingly for my followers."* (open to the cross) Just as Isaiah had said, they took Jesus and beat Him, whipped Him, and put a crown of thorns on His head. Then they put nails through His hands and feet to hang Him on a cross. And Jesus died.



Panel 3

(open to the tomb with the stone and the soldiers) After He died, Jesus was buried in a cave. They rolled a huge stone to cover the front of the cave. Soldiers guarded the tomb because Jesus had said that on the third day, He would rise from the dead. But no stone and no human soldiers could keep Him in the grave.



Panel 4

(open to Jesus outside of the tomb) Three days after He died, God raised Jesus from the dead. His resurrection proved to the world that He is the Son of God and that He has the power to overcome evil and death. After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent forty days on earth and appeared to many people who had seen Him die. They recorded their experiences as proof that Jesus had been dead but was brought back to life.



Panel 5

(open to bridge) After forty days, God took Jesus back to heaven, where He serves as a bridge between God and man. Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to God except through me."* It is only through Jesus that God will forgive our disobedience.

To cross the bridge that Jesus provides to God, we must accept God's invitation to have peace with Him by putting our faith in Jesus. That is, we must trust Jesus to save us from the punishment we deserve because of our disobedience.



Panel 6

(open and point to Jesus' hand reaching down to us) Jesus is stretching out His hand to bring us into a right relationship with God by forgiving our disobedience. God says, "The wages of sin is death (point to the flames), but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus (point to the light)."
"Wages" are what we earn for what we do. All of us have done bad things and have earned death and separation from God. But God offers a gift. You cannot pay for a gift. (If you pay, it is not a gift) The gift God offers is forgiveness and life forever with Him!

Will you accept God's gift by admitting that you need Him to save you from the punishment you deserve? If you trust in Jesus, God will spare you from that punishment – eternity in a place called hell (point to the flames) – and give you the gift of eternal life with Him. (point to the light)

Today, Jesus offers you forgiveness and eternal life as a *free* gift. You cannot earn it and you do not deserve it. You can only choose whether to receive this gift or to reject it.

Would you like to ask Jesus to forgive you for all of your sins and to trust Him for eternal life?

The way we express our trust in Jesus is through prayer to Him. Listen to this prayer. If it expresses what is in your heart, I will help you pray it to Jesus.

“Dear God, Creator of the whole world,
Thank you for loving me. I know that I have been disobedient and have sinned against you. I do not want to be separated from you any longer. Jesus, I believe You died on the cross for me. Please forgive me for all of my sins. From now on, I want to follow You. But, I need Your help. Please send Your Spirit to live in me and give me the strength to do what pleases You.”

Does this prayer express what is in your heart? (if answer is “yes”) Then repeat this same prayer after me.

“Dear God, Creator of the whole world, //
Thank you for loving me. //
I know that I have been disobedient and have sinned against you. //
I do not want to be separated from you any longer. //
Jesus, I believe You died on the cross for me. //
Please forgive me for all of my sins. //
From now on, I want to follow You. But, I need Your help. //
Please send Your Spirit to live in me and to give me the strength to do what pleases You. //
Thank you, God. Amen.”

The Bible says that when we trust Jesus, He forgives all our sins and sends His Holy Spirit to live in us and change us from the inside out. Not only that. When you received Jesus, you were adopted into God’s family as His very own child. So, welcome to the family of God! I am your brother/sister. You are my brother/sister.

Just like a new baby in a family, you will need milk – the milk of God’s Word – to help you grow.

God will help strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ, and you can live each day enjoying God’s blessings. You have crossed over that bridge from death to life, and the life Jesus gives is abundant and forever. There are some things you can do to grow stronger in the life God gives you.

Panel 7



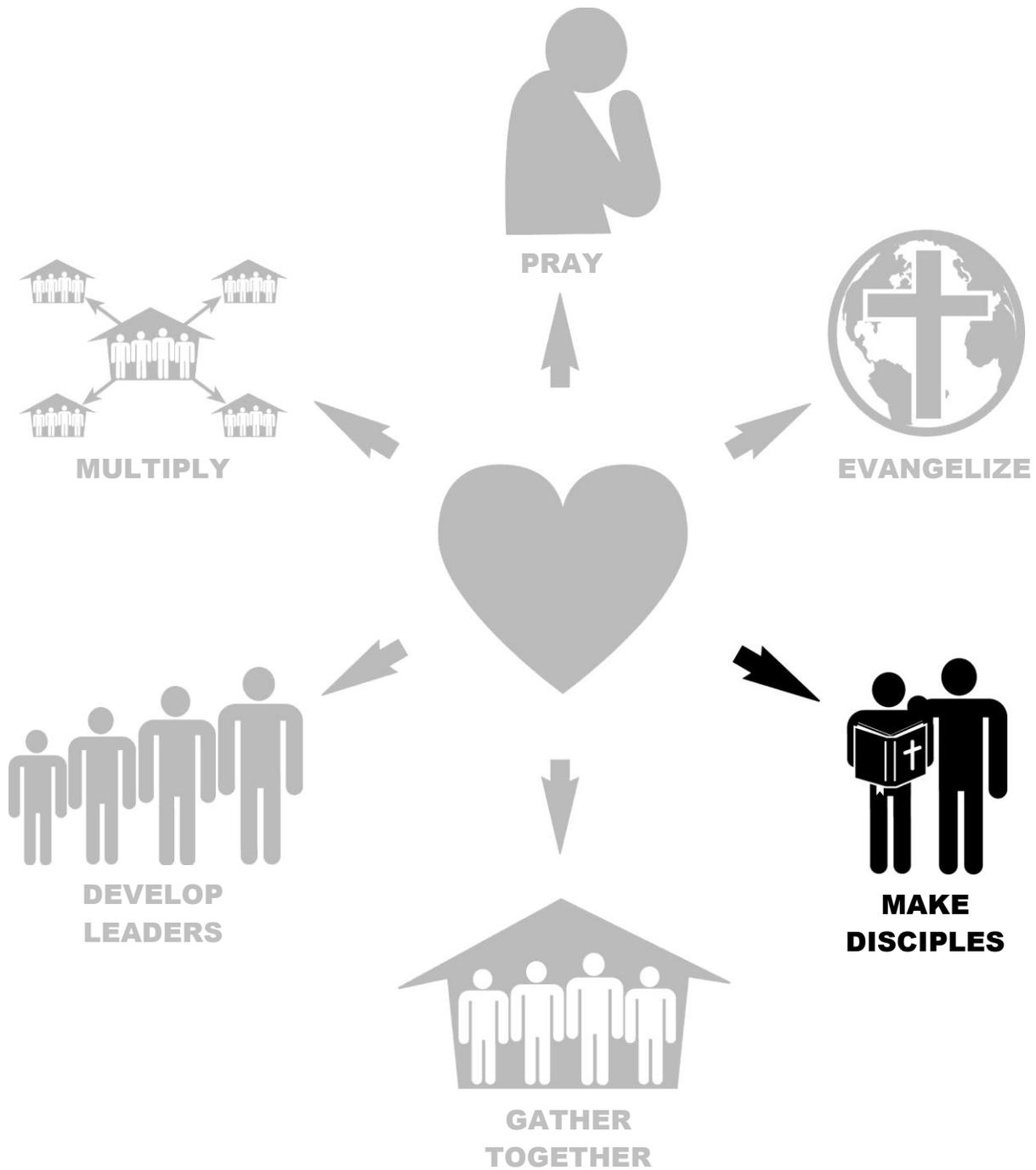
We respond to God’s love for us by **loving God and each other**.

We can **learn** more about God and about how we should live **from God’s Word, the Bible**.

We can **pray to God** throughout the day about our joys and our concerns and for His guidance.

We can **meet regularly** with other Christians in order to worship and encourage one another.

We can **tell others** the good news about Jesus and how they can be forgiven and have eternal life with Him.





MAKE DISCIPLES

TRAINING TIP

Multiplication Game

Ask for two volunteers to be pastors. Ask each to pick one person from the audience. This represents evangelism. Then tell the group that Pastor A preaches for a year. But Pastor B preaches and discipled his convert for a year. At the end of the year, Pastor A picks one more person. Pastor B and his disciple each pick one more person from the audience. Next round, Pastor A goes and picks one more person from the audience. Pastor B and each of his disciples go pick one person from the audience. Do this for several generations until all the people in the audience have been chosen. After 5 or 6 generations, disciple-making Pastor B's group will be much larger than the group led by evangelistic Pastor A.

Addition: $1 + 1 = 2 + 1 = 3 + 1 = 4 + 1 = 5 + 1 = 6 + 1 = 7 + 1 = 8$
Multiplication: $1 + 1 = 2 \times 2 = 4 \times 2 = 8 \times 2 = 16 \times 2 = 32 \times 2 = 64 \times 2 = \underline{128}$
Generation: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

What does this multiplication game show us?

- Evangelism is a ministry of addition.
- Disciple-making is a ministry of multiplication. Changes in the first few generations are not very different. The difference grows greater and greater with each additional generation.
- Everyone wants a ministry of multiplication, not addition.



MAKE DISCIPLES

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus commands us to make disciples, teaching them to obey His commands.
- Every disciple must be a disciple maker.
- Your “First Steps” challenge is to make disciples who love and obey Jesus Christ and who make more disciples of their own.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: MAKE DISCIPLES

The most critical time for a plant is just after the seed breaks through the soil. Because its root system is immature, too much sun and too little water can cause it to wither and die. On the other hand, too much rain can wash away the soil and uproot the seedling. During this season, young plants need close observation and careful tending.

In Matthew 13, Jesus warns that new believers, too, are vulnerable to lack of understanding, trouble and persecution, the worries of life, and the deceitfulness of wealth. But He also gives us a glimpse of the wonderful fruitfulness of disciples:

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.
(Matthew 13:23)

The farmer understands that it is from this fruitful harvest that he gets the seeds to sow the next spring. It is the same with discipleship.

2. WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

Read Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

2.1 What did Jesus tell His disciples to do?

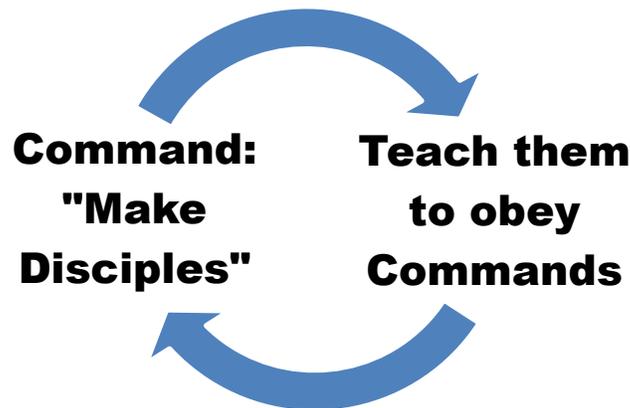
This passage was originally written in Greek. In that language, “make disciples” is the only direct command. “Make disciples” is what we are supposed to do. The other verbs - “going”, “baptizing,” and “teaching them to obey” are participles. They tell us how we are supposed to do it.

“Make disciples” is God’s clear and direct command. It is not a suggestion. This is Almighty God’s Great Commission.

2.2 What promise did Jesus make in the Great Commission?

He promised that we do not have to go alone to make disciples. Jesus did not issue His orders, pat us on the back and wish us luck. He said, “Come on, we’re going together. Step by step. Side by side. Hand in hand. Everywhere and always.”

2.3 Do Disciples Make Disciples?



Our job is to make disciples who obey everything Jesus commanded. And, part of their obedience is to make more disciples. The Great Commission, like sowing and harvesting, is circular. Evangelism adds. Discipleship multiplies.

Read Luke 9:23-25

²³ Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?”

Discipleship is serious business. Jesus wants us to make disciples, teaching them to obey all His commands. True disciples must be willing to give up everything to follow Jesus.

Jesus was never so desperate for disciples that He compromised His standards for disciples! He expected nothing less than that His disciples sacrifice everything for Him!

A disciple puts Jesus first by obeying His commands.

Are your disciples prepared to give up everything to follow Jesus? Are you? If not, the standard of Jesus has been lowered.

Start right away with new converts:

It is never too soon to begin following Jesus. From the very start, we should teach new believers to obey Jesus' commands. Immediately following conversion, we should teach the new believer to take the following practical steps of obedience:

- List 100 People Who Need to Hear. (see pages 34-35)
Ask God with which 5 to share first.
- Teach them a simple method of sharing the gospel. (See *Evangelize tools* on pages 48-52) Give them a chance to practice with you.
- Teach them to tell their own conversion story. (see pages 46-47)
Give them a chance to practice with you.
- Send them out to share with their top five from their list. Instruct them to go through these same steps (*list 100, teach to share the gospel and their own story, have them share with top 5 on list*) with anyone who puts their faith in Christ.

This process takes at least a couple of hours. But, it is well worth it. Make sure to set a time to meet again. When you meet next, ask them how they did in doing what you taught them.

First Steps

How will you immediately disciple new believers to find out who is obedient? See question 10 of the strategy worksheet.

3. TEACH DISCIPLES TO OBEY JESUS

Read John 14:15

¹⁵"If you love me, you will obey what I command."

3.1 What did Jesus say was the test of His disciples' love for Him?

Jesus made it clear that we show our love by doing what He says. So, teaching our disciples to obey the commands of Jesus is very important. You will need a plan to teach your disciples the commands of Jesus. The *Basic Commands of Jesus* tool (located at the end of this chapter) is designed to help you with that.

First Steps

What discipleship methods or materials will you use to teach your disciples to obey Jesus?

See question 11 of the Strategy Worksheet

4. TRAIN DISCIPLES TO FEED THEMSELVES

Read Hebrews 5:12-14

¹² In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! ¹³ Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness.

¹⁴ But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

4.1 What is a mature disciple?

In Hebrews 5, the author criticizes his readers because they still need someone else to teach them basic truth. Our goal must be to make disciples who can teach themselves.

Disciple-making is like having children. A mother does not feed her children milk forever. They need to grow up and eat solid food. Children need to grow up and become independent. Similarly, the goal of discipleship is for our disciples to become mature, Godly people who can follow Jesus without our help. Every new disciple must be equipped to "feed themselves" in four important areas.

1. **The Bible.** New converts need to learn to understand and apply God's word. This is taught, most easily, by teaching them a simple list of questions that can be applied to any passage. See the tools at the end of the "Gather Together" section (pages 64-68).
2. **Prayer.** The best way to teach prayer to a new convert is by example. Pray with them. Then, study with them what the Bible says about prayer.
3. **Church.** To grow, a new convert needs to know how to be a part of a spiritual family. Again, this is best taught by example. For this reason, it is often best to disciple in small groups. If you disciple two or more together, in the process, they will learn how to live and worship together as the family of God.
4. **Persecution and suffering.** Trials are a reality in the Christian life. *"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted."* (2 Tim. 3:12). New converts need to be trained to face the difficulties that will, inevitably, come. Teach them that difficulties will come. Teach them that God uses difficulties to perfect our character, prove our faith, equip us for ministry and provide a testimony for Him as He sustains us through persecution and suffering. Knowing this will help fend off discouragement.

5. EVERY DISCIPLE A DISCIPLE-MAKER

Read Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you”

5.1 Who should obey the Great Commission?

In the Great Commission he commanded us to make disciples. Who is supposed to obey this command? All believers, of course. Jesus did not say, “Make disciples if you have finished Bible School.” He did not say, “Make disciples after you have been a believer for five years or more.” He simply said, “Make disciples.” Every Christian must obey this command. Every Christian must be involved in making disciples.

5.2 Can every disciple be a “leader”?

Because every believer is commanded to make disciples, every believer must be a “leader.” In the church, we think of leaders as those who serve in one of the roles described in Ephesians 4:11-12 - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers; or else in terms of the officers of the church, bishops/pastors, elders, or deacons.

But, there is another kind of leadership. A poor, illiterate housewife can be a “leader” for her children and neighbors. She can be like the duckling that is following the duckling ahead and is one step ahead of the duckling following behind. She can make disciples, teaching them to obey Jesus.

As you are discipling a new believer, that disciple may lead one of their friends to Christ. They may ask you, “Would you be willing to disciple my friend?” Surprisingly, the right answer is, “No.” More specifically, “No, but I will help you do it.” You may be more knowledgeable and more experienced. But, your disciple will grow more quickly if you give him or her the chance to exercise their own disciple-making muscles. Teach him something. Then let him teach it to his disciple. In this way, both of you will be obeying the Great Commission, your disciple will learn how to lead another, and the church can continue to multiply as each believer disciples more believers.

Everyone Can Lead



Think of a duck leading her ducklings to water. They usually walk in a single file line. Only the first duckling follows the mother. The rest follow another duckling. Each duckling does not need to be a mature duck in order to lead the one behind it. It needs only to be one step ahead of the next duck.

The same is true of our spiritual lives. Jesus is the only One who is totally mature. We each follow and learn from someone one step ahead of us in maturity. And even the newest disciple can lead someone who is at least one step behind him. So, even a new believer can teach someone who does not yet know Christ. They may not know much, but they know more than some.

As the apostle Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1)

Learn From Others:

Do and Teach. Disciple-makers in one country use a one-on-one approach. Each “Paul” teaches a lesson to his “Timothy.” The disciple cannot move on to the second lesson until he has taught the first lesson to his disciple. So the disciple is not only learning himself, but also obeying as he teaches others.

Then, when the Timothy receives the second lesson, he must again teach it to his disciple before he is able to receive the third lesson. The second disciple must follow the same pattern. And so on, level after level, disciple after disciple.

Watch and Do. In another country, one pastor uses an apprenticeship approach. He takes new believers along with him to do outreach ministry so that they learn first by observing. Over time, he gives them more responsibility until many become pastors of their own house churches.

Everyone a Leader. In one church planting movement, a head of household discipled his own family as a leader coaches him. In this way, whole families are discipled and strengthened, and new leaders emerge naturally through on-the-job training. As each head of a household wins others in his relational network, he becomes a coach and follows the same model.

Small Groups. In many church planting movements, the bulk of discipleship takes place in the small home groups where new believers learn what the Bible says, encourage each other, and hold each other accountable to do what they have learned.

FIRST STEPS

These are the disciple-making tools that follow –

1. **“The Basic Commands of Jesus”** (excellent first discipleship lessons for new believers)
2. **“How Fast Could the World Come to Christ . . .”** (Multiplication vs. Addition)



THE BASIC COMMANDS TOOL OF JESUS

Jesus taught many things during His time on earth. The Apostle John says that if all that Jesus did was recorded, then all the books in the world could not contain it. (John 21:25)

So how then do we, as leaders, obey Jesus' command to "teach everything that I have commanded"?

Although that seems like an impossible task, all of Jesus' commands fit into seven categories that we call "The Basic Commands of Jesus." Train your disciples to memorize, apply, and reproduce these seven basic commands. Discuss the importance of the commands and work through the Scriptures together. You can reinforce this teaching by showing how any of Jesus' commands recorded in Scripture fall into one of these categories. Follow the guidelines in "Leading a Simple Bible Discussion" at the end of the *Gather Together* chapter to help your disciples discuss, learn and apply these commands.

- 1. Repent, believe, and receive the Holy Spirit for conversion:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verses: Mark 1:15;
John 3:16; 20:22
- 2. Be baptized and confirm repentance and new life in Christ:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verses: Matthew 28:18-20
- 3. Love God, fellow disciples, neighbors, the needy, and your enemies:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verses: Luke 10:25-37;
John 13:34; Matt. 6:14-15
- 4. Break bread through Communion, and worship the Lord:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verses: Matt. 26:26-28
- 5. Pray at all times through intercession, family and private devotions, healing, and spiritual warfare:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verse: John 16:24
- 6. Give as a stewardship of your time, treasure and talents:**
Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verse: Luke 6:38
- 7. Make disciples by being a witness, teaching God's Word, shepherding new believers, and training leaders:** Discuss what Jesus commands in the following verses: John 21:15-17; Acts 1:8

* Adapted by permission from George Patterson's material on www.mentorandmultiply.com.



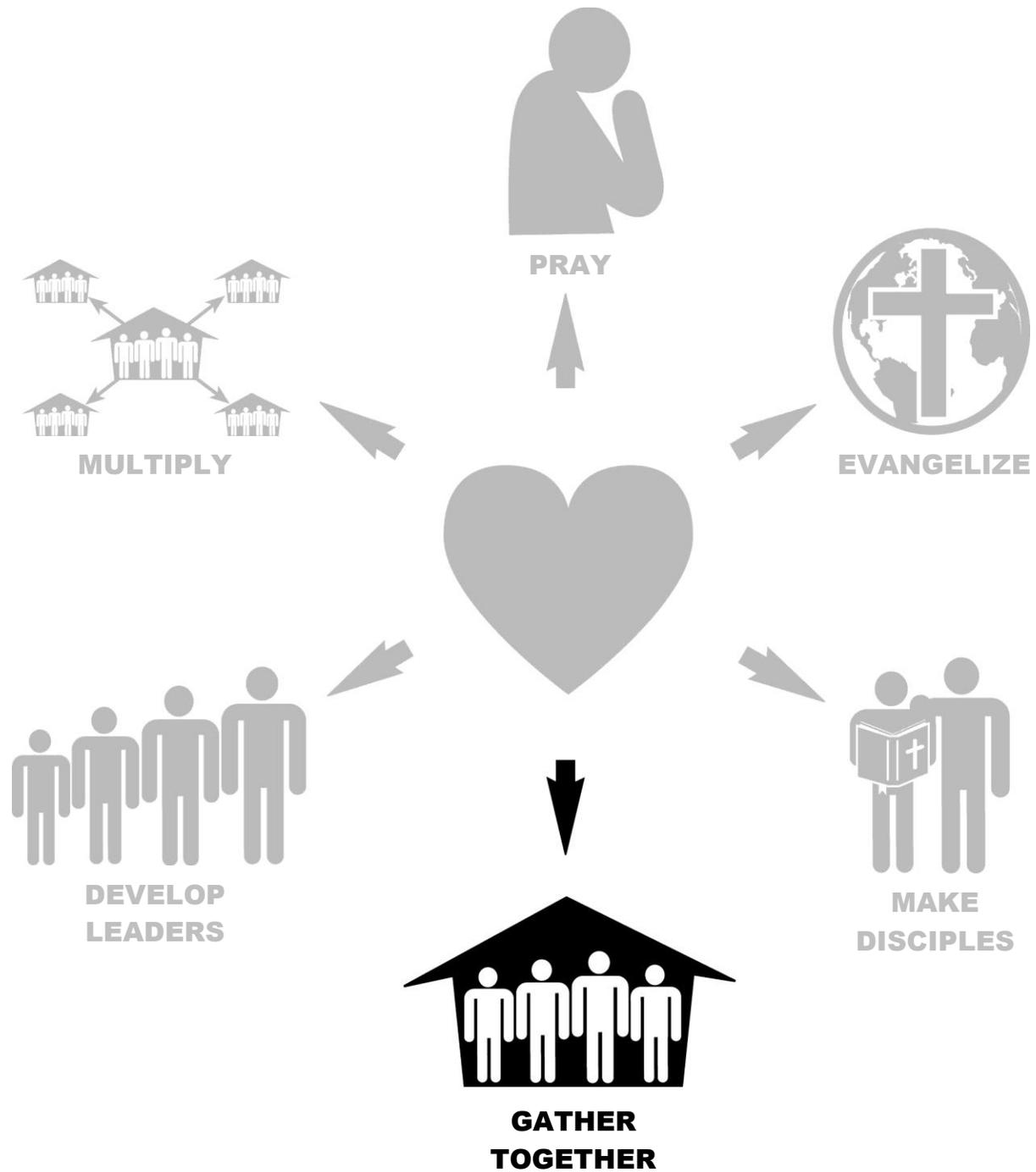
HOW FAST COULD THE WORLD COME TO CHRIST . . .

If 3,000 Christians were added per day (*like on the day of Pentecost*), it would take over 6,273 years to reach 6.9 billion people!

- For this method to work, some people would need to **STAY ALIVE FOR 6,273 YEARS**, and the population of the world **COULD NOT** grow!
- So, the **ADDITION** method is **IMPOSSIBLE!** It will **NEVER** get the job done!

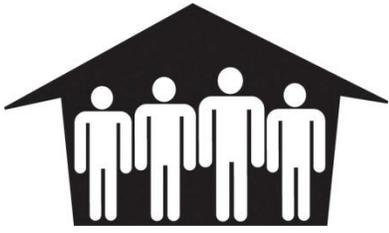
If we disciple every believer thoroughly for a year and then have each of them lead two others to the Lord each year, they could reach 10.5 BILLION PEOPLE IN ONLY 21 YEARS!

If we immediately equip every new believer to lead two others to the Lord within a week of their own salvation, the world would be saved in only 37 weeks!!! This is assuming no one ever led more than two people to the Lord.





**GATHER
TOGETHER**



GATHER TOGETHER

MAIN IDEAS

- Healthy churches multiply.
- A biblical church can be very simple: “a group of believers with one or more leaders, regularly gathering together to obey the commands of Christ.”
- A Person of Peace is the fastest way to form a new church.
- Churches that change lives are churches that grow and multiply.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: GATHER TOGETHER

The day the farmer envisioned from the start has come – the vision that kept him working hard day after day in the scorching sun, trusting the Lord for growth when he could see no movement.

The crops are ripe. It’s time to harvest! He dare not delay:

He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” *(Mark 4:26-29)*

The time for the harvest is as soon as the grain is ripe. Any delay risks the crops and is poor stewardship of the seed the Lord has entrusted to us.

Once harvested, the crops are brought into the storehouse. A church is a storehouse that conserves the harvest. Leave the newly harvested crops lying in the field, and they will wither and dry out, rot, or be eaten by pests. Leave a new believer alone in the world after he accepts Christ, and he will dry up and fall away or be devoured by God’s enemies.

2. JERUSALEM CHURCH MODEL

The first century church in Jerusalem is a great example of a healthy, effective church. Let’s see why.

Read Acts 2:42-47

⁴²They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

2.1 What would you like best if you were a member of this church?

Just imagine! Everyone around you is steadfast in the faith. You are taught by the very men who were with Jesus from the beginning all the things that Jesus taught them. Your church is like a close and loving family, eating and praying together. You all fear the Lord, which Scripture says is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge. You all have everything you need, in addition to the joy of being able to share with others. You do not argue over doctrine or trifles. You are all hospitable, spending time together in one another's homes. You enjoy praising and worshiping God together and have the favor of everyone around you. And your church just never stops growing!

2.2 How can we recognize a healthy church?

We know a plant or tree is healthy because it grows and bears fruit. It's the same with the church. The members were growing in grace, strength, favor and maturity. And the membership was growing in size.

2.3 Let's take a short quiz: According to this passage, what did this healthy, rapidly growing church in Jerusalem have?

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|----|
| 1. Believers | Yes | No |
| 2. Leaders | Yes | No |
| 3. Fellowship | Yes | No |
| 4. Worship | Yes | No |
| 5. Evangelism | Yes | No |
| 6. Discipleship | Yes | No |
| 7. Ministry | Yes | No |
| 8. Lord's Supper | Yes | No |
| 9. Seminary-trained leader | Yes | No |
| 10. Money | Yes | No |
| 11. Church building | Yes | No |
| 12. Paid pastor | Yes | No |
| 13. Minimum membership | Yes | No |

(*Answers found on page 73)

2.4 Are these things necessary? Or merely helpful when available?

Seminary Trained Leaders – Leaders must be teachable and should always be learning. But a seminary degree is not a New Testament requirement. To Jesus and to Paul, character and obedience were much more important.

Church Building – The early church met in public buildings, like the temple, and in private homes. These types of meeting places are good for church planting, since there is no reliance on massive loans, no need for governmental permits, and no constant fundraising.

Paid Pastor – Having the money to pay a pastor and staff may be a blessing, but it is not a command. A flock is a flock when it has a shepherd, not a Chief Executive Officer. Lots of pastors have to work second jobs, and they manage just fine (especially when they understand and practice the principles of discipleship).

Minimum Membership – To paraphrase, Jesus said that where two or more are gathered in His name . . . there is church. They may be too small to support a full-time pastor, but they are never too small to reproduce!

Based on Acts 2:42-47, we can define a church as “a group of believers with one or more leaders, regularly gathering together to obey the commands of Christ.”

2.5 What does the word “church” mean in your culture?

In the Bible, the concept of church was simple. It was a group of believers, with one or more leaders, regularly gathering together to obey the commands of Christ.

Unfortunately, in many cultures the word “church” now means much more. Often a group is not considered a “church” if it does not have a building, or a paid pastor, or a certain number of members. These things are good, but not necessary. These requirements are not in the Bible.

Sometimes it is helpful to change the name of new churches to something that is more culturally acceptable. Sometimes this is necessary so the new groups can be free of these extra requirements.

“Most people need to raise their expectation of what a disciple is and lower their requirement of what a church is.”
Neil Cole

Leaders in one country decided to call new simple churches “New Life Fellowships.” This helped people accept these new groups of believers meeting in homes, even when the groups did not have their own buildings.

3. FORM A NEW CHURCH AROUND A “PERSON OF PEACE”

Read Acts 10:23b-27

The next day Peter started out with them, and some of the believers from Joppa went along. ²⁴The following day he arrived in Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had called together his relatives and close friends. ²⁵ As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. ²⁶ But Peter made him get up. “Stand up,” he said, “I am only a man myself.”

²⁷ While talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people.

3.1 How did Peter gather a church in Cornelius’ house?

Peter did not go out and separately evangelize all of the new church members. He simply came in response to Cornelius’ invitation. God had prepared Cornelius in advance. God worked through Cornelius, the Person of Peace, to bring all of the people together. Peter explained the good news about Jesus, and everyone who heard believed and received the Holy Spirit. They asked Peter to stay for a few days. And, when Peter left, he left a new church.

John 4 tells a similar story about the Samaritan woman at the well. Jesus spoke to the woman. Then, while Jesus remained at the well outside of town, the woman went back into town and brought the residents to Jesus to listen to Him. This is the God-given role of a Person of Peace: to welcome the evangelist and open the doors for him to speak to the friends, neighbors and family of the Person of Peace.

The best and quickest way to start a new church is to form it around a Person of Peace whom God has already prepared. The Person of Peace then brings his friends and family to hear the gospel (or brings you to them).

Imagine success. You have made your list of 100 people. You have prayed. God has opened the door of opportunity and you have shared the Gospel. Your hearer has understood and, by faith, accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. What now? You are at a fork in the path. You can either invite that person to join you in your church, or you can (with God’s help) form a new church around that person. To add a new believer to your church is a wonderful thing! To start a new church is even more wonderful!

To find a Person of Peace, ask a simple question:

“Do you have any friends or family who might be interested in talking about spiritual things?”

So, when you find someone who is interested in Christ, you can see if God has prepared him or her for that role by asking a simple question: “Do you have any friends or family who might be interested in talking about spiritual things?” If they say “yes,” they are very likely a Person of Peace whom God has prepared to open a new network of friends and relatives to the gospel. Arrange a time and place to meet with their friends and relatives, and present the gospel to them. Better yet, teach your Person of Peace to present the gospel to his own friends and family.

First Steps

How can we find the Person of Peace and train him to evangelize and disciple his friends, family and neighbors?
See questions 13 & 14 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Steps

How will you gather new believers together to begin a new church? What will you call these groups?
See question 15 of the Strategy Worksheet.

We all want to be part of a church that is as wonderful as the first century church in Jerusalem. So you and your ministry team need to discuss and decide how to create that loving, learning, joyful, growing atmosphere in the new church you are planting.

You need to use the tools that work best in the area where you are planting a new church. In some areas, home Bible study groups work best. Or maybe cell groups will do the job. Some start what are called “listening groups” where members listen to the Bible on audio tape and discuss what they have heard.

First Steps

**Where will the new group meet? A house?
Another place?** *See question 16 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

First Steps

**How often will the new group meet? What days?
What time each day?** *See question 16 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

4. THE GOAL: CHURCHES THAT CHANGE LIVES

Read Matthew 28:19-20

“... make disciples ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

4.1 What is a “successful” church?

In His Great Commission, Jesus tells us what He wants from His church. He wants disciples who obey everything He has commanded. The biblical goal of a church is not to have a big building, excellent music or a large congregation. These are all fine, but they are not the core objective. The central objective is to “make disciples ... teaching them to obey all I have commanded.” In other words, the goal is to change lives – to bring people’s lives into obedience to Jesus’ commands.

This is important for two reasons:

- First, it is what Jesus wants. It is what He commanded in the Great Commission. It is what we should do.
- Second, churches that change lives are churches that can evangelize, grow and multiply. Paul said to the Jews, “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” (*Rom. 2:24*) Unfortunately, the same is often true of Christians. Our lives often contradict our message. We say, “Believe in Jesus, and He will forgive your sins and give you a new life.” But, those who hear look at us and do not believe because our lives are not transformed. On the other hand, when believers are growing in obedience to Jesus, their transformed lives reinforce the message – drawing people to Christ and His church.

But what sorts of churches change lives? A preacher may preach a sermon – an excellent sermon – to his congregation of 300 people. After a week, how many even remember what the sermon was about? Probably only a few. And, more important, how many are actually doing something to obey what they learned – to put the message into practice? Unfortunately, even fewer still.

As a teacher and preacher, this can be very frustrating. We can get angry and blame the dullness of our congregations. Or, we can ask whether there are things we can do differently to more effectively change lives.

5. CHURCHES THAT CHANGE LIVES: PEOPLE DO WHAT THEY LEARN FOR THEMSELVES and THEY DO WHAT YOU CHECK

Read Matthew 16:13-17

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.”

Jesus had a fascinating approach to teaching. He was often indirect. Often, rather than telling people what He wanted to teach them, He asked them questions. He wanted them to discover it for themselves.

5.1 What did Jesus want to teach his disciples?

Jesus wanted to teach His disciples that He, Jesus, was the Son of God and the promised Messiah.

5.2 How did he teach them?

He could easily have said, “I am the promised Messiah. I am, in fact, God the Son, the second person of the Trinity.” But, He did not. Rather, He asked them some questions: “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” “Who do you say I am?” He did not tell them. He asked them to tell Him.

5.3 Why did he teach them that way?

He wanted His disciples to grapple with the issues and discover the truth for themselves. He knew that He would soon die and that His disciples would have to risk their own lives because they followed Jesus. His disciples needed to have a deep conviction – a conviction for which they would give their lives – that Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus understood that people learn best what they learn for themselves. And people are more likely to put into practice the principles they learn for themselves. People do what they learn for themselves.

So, if we want people to do what they learn, we need – like Jesus – to help them discover it for themselves.

5.4 How can we teach that way?

If we want people to do what they learn from the Bible, we need to help them figure it out for themselves, rather than telling them what it means. This is difficult with a large congregation. But in a small group, it is simple. Ask a group member to read aloud the passage of scripture the group will be covering. Then, ask simple questions. Allow others to answer. If you find yourself doing most of the talking, you are not doing it right. This sort of interactive discussion is designed to help people put into practice what they learn. Take a look at “Leading a Simple Bible Discussion” at the end of this chapter for more suggestions.

First Steps

How can we conduct church meetings in a way that everyone learns for themselves and participates in the learning process? *See question 17 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

People have a tendency to do what you check rather than what you ask. Imagine the owner of a new restaurant. On opening day, he lines up all of his employees and tells them, “Everyone needs to be clean and neat. Your hair needs to be combed. Your shirt needs to be freshly laundered, and your trousers need to be pressed.” Then, every day thereafter, he conducts an inspection. In the daily inspection, he overlooks messy hair. He does not notice dirty spots on the shirt. But, if the trousers are not freshly pressed, he sends the employee home to change clothes. After a few weeks or months, what will the employees look like? They will have pressed trousers – that’s for sure. But they may not have combed hair or clean shirts. Why? Because, by what he checked, the boss showed them what he truly considered important. His employees did not do what he said. They did what he checked.

If we want to make disciples, teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded, it is not enough just to tell them what Jesus commanded. We must check. One practical method is explained in “Leading a Simple Bible Discussion” at the end of this chapter. At the end of the Bible discussion, each group member is asked to answer two questions:

- What will you do? Specifically, how will you put into practice what you’ve learned?
- Who will you tell? To whom will you tell what you’ve learned?

Each group member answers both questions. Someone in the group is assigned to write down their answers. It is important to encourage group members to give specific answers, at least part of which can be completed before the next meeting. So, for example, it is not sufficient to say, “I need to be more humble.” Rather, you need to decide on what specific steps you plan to take in that direction. Perhaps: “This week, I need to apologize to my wife for how harshly I have treated her.”

Then, at the next meeting, the first item for discussion will be the commitments from the prior meeting. Each group member will share how they did in fulfilling the commitments they made. This is important. If the group does not check the following week, the group is communicating that fulfilling commitments to obey God’s word is not really important. That is not what we want to communicate.

If everyone has not taken steps to fulfill their commitments, do not move on to the next lesson. Say something like, “*We’ll pray for you, brother, that God gives the grace to keep your commitment next week. But there’s no sense learning more if we’re not doing what we’ve already learned. So let’s review last week’s lesson again.*” So for example, if a brother committed to apologize to his wife, but did not, you should ask some questions to understand why. (Maybe his in-laws came on a surprise visit, and there was no opportunity to speak privately with his wife) If he made no sincere effort to keep his commitment, review the same lesson over again with the whole group, pray for the brother, and contact him during the week to help him do what he has committed. By doing this, you are developing within the group a habit of immediate obedience to God’s commands. We learn what the Bible says. We do it. We share it with others. This is the real path to spiritual growth. This is the kind of church that changes lives. This is the kind of church that reproduces – because its members’ lives reinforce its message.

First Steps

How can we establish loving accountability for every disciple to learn, do and share what the Bible says?

See question 18 of the Strategy Worksheet.

FIRST STEPS

This is the tool that follows to help you **GATHER TOGETHER** new believers –

1. **“Leading a Simple Bible Discussion”** which gives some practical pointers in leading small group Bible discussions.

• *Answer to Question 2.3 on page 66: According to this passage, only items 1 through 8 are needed. Items 9 through 12 may be helpful, but are not necessary.*



LEADING A SIMPLE BIBLE DISCUSSION

In a simple Bible discussion, there is no designated “teacher” (except the Bible and the Holy Spirit, of course). The leader is a facilitator, not a preacher or Bible answer-man. Ask a group member to read aloud the passage of scripture the group will be covering. Then, ask simple questions. Allow others to answer. If you find yourself doing most of the talking, you are not doing it right. Interactive discussion helps people put into practice what they learn. The whole group reads the Bible and, together, discovers what it means. Then, each group member makes a commitment regarding how they will “Live,” or obey, what they’ve learned and who they will “Tell” what they’ve learned. These “Live and Tell” commitments are the basics of making disciples. At the next meeting, each group member will give a progress report on their “Live and Tell” commitments. You should not act as the leader for all of the sessions. Lead the first one as an example. Then at the next meeting, ask someone else to lead.

The following pages, which can be photocopied front-and-back, will give you the basics, the format, and some Bible passages to help you lead a simple Bible discussion group. There are two different tracks. You can choose the one that would work best for your group.

1. **Discover Track** –
Use this in a pre-evangelistic or an evangelistic setting
2. **Strengthen Track** –
Use this with existing believers

Discover Track

I am Second Groups

I am Second group Basics

Stories and small. Encourage people to tell their story. Listen to the stories of others. Then discuss stories from the Bible. Keep your group small (between 2 and 8 people) to maximize impact and allow everyone to discuss these stories.

Everyone contributes. Help people learn how to grow by doing these things themselves: a) tell others about Jesus, b) learn the Bible, c) talk with God, d) help and encourage others, and e) endure hard times.

Consider everyone a potential leader. View everyone as a potential leader, both before and after they trust Christ. Give people opportunities to lead if they continue to obey and progress. Leaders are unpaid and without formal training.

Obedience-based, not just knowledge-focused. Make a “Live and Tell” commitment every time you meet. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide people in the life changes they need to make as you do the “Live and Tell” questions. At the beginning of each meeting, review the previous meeting’s commitments. Consider not moving on if people did not complete them. This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Jesus.

New groups rather than big groups. As people share with others, encourage them not to invite the new people to your group, but instead start a new group. Meet in homes or neutral places. Meet with new leaders in their groups as a coach, and encourage them to do the same for others. Stay connected for ongoing training and accountability.

Discuss and discover. Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture as your group discusses it. Lead through asking questions rather than lecturing.

Group Meeting Format

Review

Discuss the *Live and Tell* commitments from the last meeting. Were commitments fulfilled? If not, then redo the last lesson.

Talk with God

Pray simply and briefly.

Read the Bible

Read or tell a Bible passage from the list below.

Discuss the Bible

Use these questions to discuss and learn the Bible.

1. What did you like?
2. What did you not like or find confusing?

Read the Bible passage again.

Talk about the Bible passage

3. What does this teach about people?
4. What does this teach about God?

Read the Bible passage again.

Live and Tell

Pay attention to the *Live and Tell* questions. It is healthy and normal for the *Review* and the *Live and Tell* sections to take up to half of the meeting time.

5. How will you live this out? Be specific.
6. Who will you tell about what you have learned? Give a name.

Report

After your I am Second group meeting finishes, talk with your mentor about your group. What is going well? What is not going well? How many people came to your meeting? Did they do their *Live and Tell* commitments?

Mentor Contact Information:

Discover Track

I am Second Group Bible Passages

Discover God -

Who is God, and what is He like?

- 1.0 Creation - Genesis 1
- 1.1 Creation of people - Genesis 2
- 1.2 Disobedience of People - Genesis 3
- 1.3 Noah and the flood - Genesis 6:5-8:14
- 1.4 God's promise with Noah - Genesis 8:15-9:17
- 1.5 God speaks to Abraham - Genesis 12:1-7, Genesis 15:1-6
- 1.6 Abraham's descendants become a nation. David becomes king - 1 Samuel 16:1-13, 2 Samuel 7:1-28
- 1.7 King David and Bathsheba - 2 Samuel 11:1-27
- 1.8 Nathan's story - 2 Samuel 12:1-25
- 1.9 God promises Savior will come - Isaiah 53

Discover Jesus -

Who is Jesus, and why did He come?

- 2.1 Savior born. Birth of Jesus - Matthew 1:18-25
- 2.2 Jesus' Baptism - Matthew 3:7-9, 13-15
- 2.3 **Crazy Man Healed***- Mark 5:1-20
- 2.4 Jesus does not lose sheep - John 10:1-30
- 2.5 Jesus heals the blind - Luke 18:31-42
- 2.6 Problems and God's plan - Luke 19:1-9
- 2.7 Living for self does not work - Matthew 9:9-13, 11:28
- 2.8 **Jesus is the only way***- John 14:5-14
- 2.9 Holy Spirit Coming - John 16:5-15
- 2.10 Last Dinner - Luke 22:14-20
- 2.11 Arrest and Trial - Luke 22:47-53, 23:13-24
- 2.12 **Execution***- Luke 23:33-56
- 2.13 **Jesus is Alive***- Luke 24:1-7, 36-47; Acts 1:1-11
- 2.14 Believing and Doing - Philippians 3:3-9

What now? Ask your mentor to help you start the *Strengthen Track*.

**2.3, 2.8, 2.12, and 2.13 are a fast track option to be used on Expeditions and other short term ministry opportunities. After these lessons, instruct the group to go back to 1.0 and proceed through the entire series.*

Rev. 3/1/2011 v. 4.0

Strengthen Track

I am Second Groups

I am Second group Basics

Stories and small. Encourage people to tell their story. Listen to the stories of others. Then discuss stories from the Bible. Keep your group small (between 2 and 8 people) to maximize impact and allow everyone to discuss these stories.

Everyone contributes. Help people learn how to grow by doing these things themselves: a) tell others about Jesus, b) learn the Bible, c) talk with God, d) help and encourage others, and e) endure hard times.

Consider everyone a potential leader. View everyone as a potential leader, both before and after they trust Christ. Give people opportunities to lead if they continue to obey and progress. Leaders are unpaid and without formal training.

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Discuss and discover. Focus on the Bible. Trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of Scripture as your group discusses it. Lead through asking questions rather than lecturing.

Group Meeting Format

Review

Discuss the *Live and Tell* commitments from the last meeting. Were commitments fulfilled? If not, then redo the last lesson.

Talk with God

Use Jesus’ prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 as a guide:

- *Relationship* - Thank God for being your Father, friend, helper, or something else He has been to you.
- *Worship* - Praise God for who He is and what He has done.
- *Surrender* - Commit to obey and listen to God.
- *Ask* - Ask God for your needs.
- *Confess* - Confess your wrongs and forgive those who have wronged you.
- *Protect* - Ask God to protect you from temptation and the evil one.

Read the Bible

Read or tell a Bible passage from the list below.

Discuss the Bible

Use these questions to discuss and learn the Bible.

1. What did you like?
2. What did you not like or find confusing?

Read the Bible passage again.

Talk about the Bible passage

3. What does this teach about people?
4. What does this teach about God?

Read the Bible passage again.

Live and Tell

Pay attention to the *Live and Tell* questions. It is healthy and normal for the *Review* and *Live and Tell* sections to take up to half the meeting time.

5. How will you live this out? Be specific.
6. Who will you tell about what you have learned? Give a name.

Report

After your I am Second group meeting finishes, talk with your mentor about your group. What is going well? What is not going well? How many people came to your meeting? Did they do their *Live and Tell* commitments?

Mentor Contact Information:

Strengthen Track

I am Second Group Bible Passages

Share Jesus with Others –

Take the first steps of following Jesus by learning to share Jesus with others.

- 1.1 My village - John 4:4-30, 39-41.
Have everyone in group make a list of 50 people they could share their story with.
- 1.2 My story - Acts 26:9-29. Have whole group practice telling their story about how they began following Jesus. What were they like before Jesus? What has Jesus changed in their lives?
- 1.3 How to become Second - 1 Corinthians 15:1-10
Practice telling the story of Jesus.
- 1.4 Ask God for help - John 6:35-51.
Begin sharing Jesus with the people on your list.
Ask God for help as you do it.
- 1.5 Rely on the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 2:1-8

Grow –

Learn how to grow as a stronger Second.

Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list.

- 2.1 Talk with God - Matthew 6:9-13
Learn and practice Jesus' model prayer.
- 2.2 Hard times - Acts 4:13-31
- 2.3 Community - Acts 2:14, 22-24, 41-47
- 2.4 The Bible - Psalms 19:7-14
- 2.5 The Spirit - Acts 3:1-10, 4:5-14

Jesus Says –

Learn to obey the 7 basic commands of Jesus.

Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list.

- 3.1 Learn and do - John 14:15-21
- 3.2 Repent. Believe. Follow - Mark 1:14-17,
Ephesians 2:1-10
- 3.3 Be baptized - Matthew 28:19, Acts 8:26-38
- 3.4 Love God. Love People - Luke 10:25-37

Jesus Also Says –

Learn to obey the 7 basic commands of Jesus.

Keep sharing Jesus with people on your list.

- 4.1 Talk with God - Matthew 6:9-13
Learn and practice Jesus' model prayer
- 4.2 Remember and Commemorate Jesus - Luke 22:14-20,
1 Corinthians 11:23-32
- 4.3 Give - Acts 4:32-37
- 4.4 Pass it on - Matthew 28:18-20

Follow as I Follow –

Make disciples. Pass on to others what you have learned. Teach these people to pass it on too.

- 5.1 Find a Disciple - 2 Timothy 1:1-14
- 5.2 Pass it on - 2 Timothy 2:1-4, 14-16
- 5.3 Teach them to teach others - 2 Timothy 3:1-17
- 5.4 Hard times - 2 Timothy 4:1-22

Multiply your Second Group –

Gather your disciples into new groups.

- 6.1 Get Started and make a plan - Luke 10:1-11.
Listen to Jesus' instructions as you start a new group.
- 6.2 Gather Together - Acts 2:14-47
- 6.3 Person of Peace - Mark 5:1-20, 6:53-56.
Look for people willing to share their story about Jesus.
Start a group with that person and their friends and family.
- 6.4 Who is ready - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Lead –

Learn how to lead an I am Second group.

- 7.1 Model (lead like this) - John 13:1-17
- 7.2 Model (don't lead like this) - 3 John 5-14
- 7.3 Assist - Mark 4:35-41
- 7.4 Watch - Luke 10:1-11, 17, 20
- 7.5 Leave - Matthew 25:14-30

Go: local –

Learn how to reach your local community.

- 8.1 Go: local - Acts 1:1-8
- 8.2 Help the poor. Share the good news - Luke 7:11-23
- 8.3 Go where God sends - Acts 10:9-48
- 8.4 Go with a plan - Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39; 14:21-23,
26-27

Go: global –

Learn how to reach the ends of the earth.

- 9.1 Go: global - Acts 1:1-8, Matthew 28:19-20
- 9.2 Go where God sends - Acts 8:26-38
- 9.3 God loves every people group - John 4:4-30, 39-41
- 9.4 Go with a plan - Acts 13:1-3, 32-33, 38-39;
14:21-23, 26-27

Remember the Basics –

Learn what to do when you meet.

- 10.1 Jesus is First - Philippians 2:1-11
- 10.2 Talk with God - Matthew 6:9-13
- 10.3 Community - Hebrews 10:23-25
- 10.4 The Bible - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Commit –

Learn to stay strong and keep following Jesus.

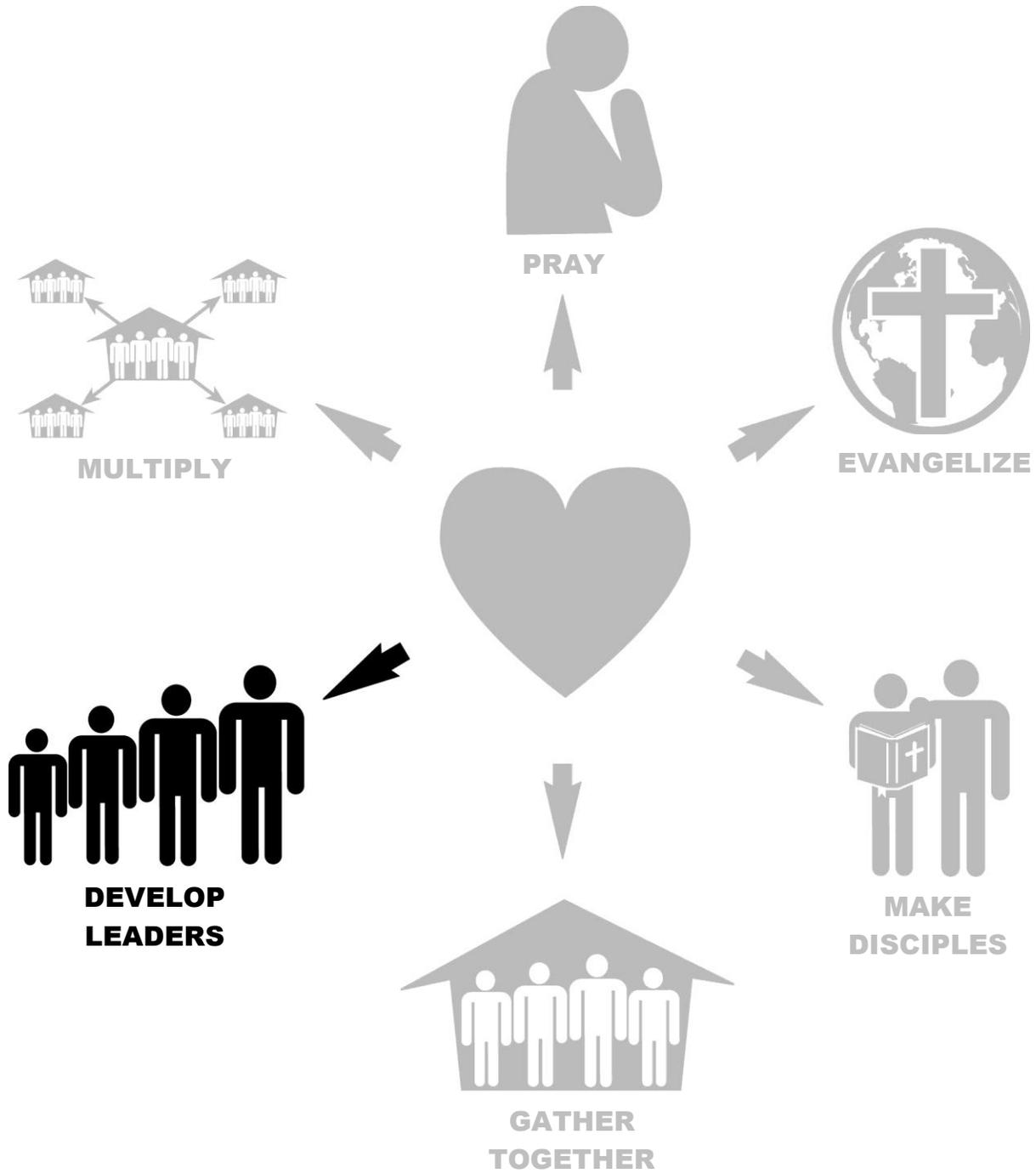
- 11.1 Disobedience - Jonah 1
- 11.2 Commit - Jonah 2
- 11.3 Obey - Jonah 3
- 11.4 Obey all the way - Jonah 4
- 11.5 Use it or Lose it - Matthew 25:14-30

What now?

Choose your own Bible passages and keep meeting.

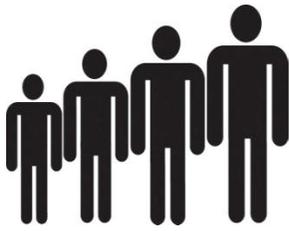
Use the same questions and group meeting format.
Don't stop meeting.

Rev. 3/1/2011 v. 4.0





**DEVELOP
LEADERS**



DEVELOP LEADERS

MAIN IDEAS

- Multiply leaders like Paul – never do ministry alone!
- Leadership development follows a cycle: **model, assist, watch** and **leave**.
- To develop servant-leaders, we must serve them.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: DEVELOP LEADERS

When the time is right, the farmer goes into the field, gathers the fruit of his harvest and takes it to his storehouse. There, he collects new seed for the next planting season – more seed than he started with, so his harvest grows greater every year.

The larger the harvest, the more workers that are needed. Fortunately, those additional workers are in the harvest! Today's new believers grow in Christ through discipleship. They continue to grow into workers, leaders and pastors through mentoring.

Good leaders do not just happen. They are called by God, yes; but they cannot fulfill their divine calling until they are trained.

A Church Planting Movement will never outgrow its need for new leaders. Leadership training, therefore, is one of the most important challenges in planting new churches.

2. PAUL & TIMOTHY: NEVER DO MINISTRY ALONE

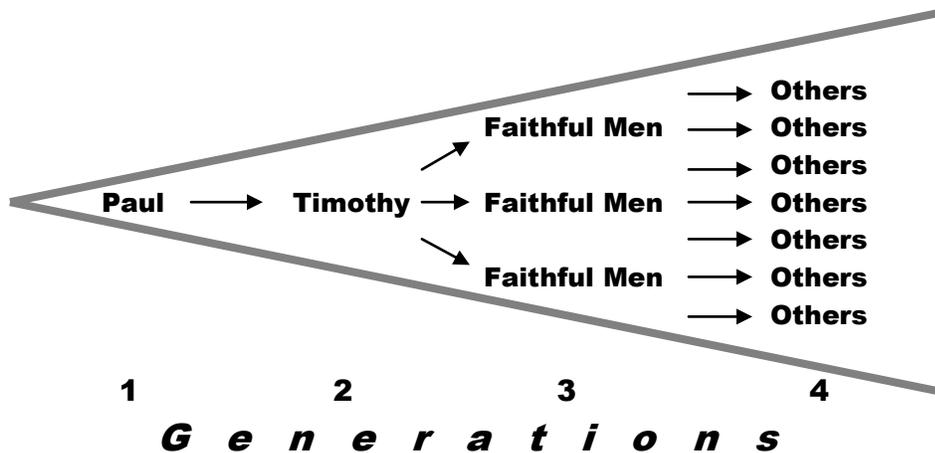
Read 2 Timothy 2:2-3

²And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus.

2.1 What did Paul teach Timothy about multiplying leaders?

Paul was a great church planter because he was also a great trainer of leaders. On all of his missionary journeys, he travelled with trainees who would learn as they worked side by side with Paul. He trained Timothy, Titus, Silus, Priscilla and Aquila and many others. **Paul never did ministry alone.** His team of trained leaders allowed Paul to accomplish far more than he could have if he had worked alone.

And, Paul trained his leaders to multiply by training more leaders. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul spoke of four generations of leaders: 1) *Paul*, who taught 2) *Timothy*, who committed the things he learned from Paul to 3) *faithful men*, who were able to teach 4) *others*, also.



First Steps

How will you apply the principle of never do ministry alone?

See questions 19-23 of the Strategy Worksheet.

- Always ask yourself who you can take along.
- Look for people with whom you can share your heart and vision.
- Find out who is willing to walk with you in the yoke of servant leadership.
- Remember that new leaders learn best from life experiences, not in classrooms.

3. JESUS' EXAMPLE

If Jesus had not trained leaders, the church would have vanished when He died. But Jesus invested His life training a handful of leaders who could continue His work – and expand it. We use a military salute as the hand gesture for “Develop Leaders,” not because we want leaders who will do what we say, but because we want leaders who will say “Yes, Sir!” to Jesus, and follow His orders.

3.1 How did Jesus select disciples to train as leaders?

Read Luke 6:12-13

¹²One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. ¹³When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles. . . .

Even Jesus could not train everyone. He had to choose a few of his disciples on whom to focus His time and energy. Jesus wanted to select exactly the right disciples, so He spent the entire night praying. During that time, His Father showed Him the men who were to be chosen – those in whom Jesus was to invest His greatest time and energy.

Be careful not to look only at the external qualities of a person when selecting a leader. The best leaders are those the Holy Spirit has prepared to obey Christ. We tend to look for those with talent or skill. That is not the criteria Jesus used. When choosing potential leaders, look for:

- Those who are willing, but not able - *(Look for people who are doing what they know, even if they do not know much);*
- Those who are using what they have - *(Look for those who are using the training they have received. You are looking for doers not hearers).*

3.2 How did Jesus' training begin?

Read Mark 3:14

¹⁴He appointed twelve....that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach...

Jesus' leadership training began simply. He wanted his chosen 12 to "be with Him." When Jesus called these men, He said, "Follow me," not "Read my book" or "Take good notes in my classes." Leadership training is most effective in a personal, loving relationship. The twelve disciples lived with Jesus, traveled with Him, asked Him questions, listened to and watched Him. Jesus gave them information. But most importantly, He gave them Himself and His time. As they spent time with Him, they listened to Him preach. They saw Him minister. They watched how He handled difficulty and opposition. They learned from His example.

First Steps

How will you invest time in your potential leaders to build a relationship with them and let them learn from your example? *See question 24 of Strategy Worksheet.*

3.3 What were the next steps as Jesus trained the 12?

Read Mark 6:7-13; 30

⁷ Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits. ⁸ These were his instructions: “Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. ⁹ Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. ¹⁰ Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. ¹¹ And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them.”

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them...

³⁰ The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

After the 12 had spent time with Jesus -- watching Him minister, it was time for them to minister themselves. Three things happened in rapid sequence:

- Jesus gave the 12 specific instructions on what they should do. (*Mark 6:7-1*)
- Though they had watched him, many times, they still needed instruction.
- They went out and did it. (apparently, without Jesus) (*Mark 6:12*)
- They came back and discussed with Jesus all that had happened. (*Mark 6:30*)

We can break Jesus' training down into the following steps:

- **He “MODELED” or demonstrated by example.** First, He spent time with them. They lived with Him and watched Him as He walked among the people, cared for them, prayed for them, healed their sicknesses and preached the good news of the kingdom.
- **He “ASSISTED” or explained what they needed to do.** Though Jesus was the perfect master-evangelist, watching Him was not enough. To be trained, His disciples needed Jesus to explain how, before He sent them to do it themselves. So, Jesus sent them out to evangelize. But, before He did, He helped them. He gave them specific instructions.
- **He “WATCHED” from a distance and gave advice as needed.** Then Jesus' disciples went from town to town, evangelizing. Apparently, Jesus did not go with them, but sent them out and waited for them to return to Him. When they returned, they discussed what had happened, and Jesus gave advice and suggestions. (See *Luke 10:17-18*, for a similar incident)
- **He “LEFT” and expected those He had trained to carry on without Him.** Jesus did not stay here on Earth forever. He left and entrusted the leaders He had trained to carry on His work. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Paul's Training Model

Paul's method was simple. He would come into a town and preach. Some people would put their faith in Christ. Paul would stay for a few weeks, showing ("**MODEL**") them how to live and training ("**ASSIST**") them how to minister. Then he would move on to the next town. Very quickly, Paul would appoint elders to lead the local churches. (Acts 14:23, Titus 1:5). Paul did not stay for years to make sure the elders led correctly. He trusted that God would be able to keep them and guide them. (Acts 14:23).

Though he had left the city, he continued to "**WATCH**" from a distance. He wrote letters. He sent his helpers – people like Timothy and Titus and Silas – to check on them. Occasionally, he would visit himself. This "**WATCH**" phase was long-lived. It could last for years, or even decades.

Finally, Paul would "**LEAVE**" – never to return. The leaders he had trained had full responsibility to lead the church and deal with false teachers and any other issues that might arise. (Acts 20:28-29)

4. PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

4.1 How can we develop leaders, following the model of Jesus?

Like Jesus, we need to:

MODEL – Show others how to lead by modeling biblical ministry, leadership and life patterns.

ASSIST – Give new leaders responsibilities. Explain how to do it. Allow them to do it. Then help them as needed.

WATCH – Oversee from a distance, checking in occasionally, giving advice when requested and addressing problems when needed.

LEAVE – Entrust your new leaders to God, His Spirit and His word. Leave them in charge, and move on to other ministry.

"Model" and "assist" are brief. Potential leaders should watch you do ministry just a few times before they are asked to do it themselves. "Watching" can last for many years.

First Steps

What do you need to MODEL for your leadership candidates, so they can see how to do it?

See question 19 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Steps

What ministry can you allow your leader candidates to do, with your **ASSISTANCE**, so they can learn how to do it?

See question 20 of the Strategy Worksheet.

First Steps

What ministry can you hand off for your leader candidates to do for themselves, while you **WATCH** and offer advice as needed? *See question 21 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

First Steps

Is it time for you to **LEAVE** and allow your trained leaders to minister independently, while you move on to a new ministry area? **If not now, when?** *See question 22 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

4.2 Who do we train?

We begin by training **new believers**. Their hearts and actions show they are ready for more. New believers are like rich soil in which God plants the spiritual seeds to grow His family.

Next, we train **those who have the heart but need the skills**. Some believers, while willing to work, need to learn how to grow in God's family by living and sharing the gospel. Finally, we train those who are already **using what they've been given**. We want to do what Jesus did—take note of those who are good stewards of what they have received and give them more.

4.3 How do we train?

We **use God's Word, a little at a time**. Jesus never gave His followers everything at once. To hear at one time all that God has planned, all the changes we have to make, all the things we have to learn – would be too much. We share a little and then watch to see if they obey. When they do, we teach them more.

4.4 When do we train?

We train **all the time**. God told Moses, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up" (*Deuteronomy 6:6-7*). That says it all.

Disciples are like children. We use every opportunity to train them. Riding the bus with another believer may be an opportunity to share God's truth about fellowship. Caring for a sick family is an opportunity to demonstrate God's love. We need to intentionally look for opportunities, not just wait for them to happen.

4.5 Where do we train?

We train **everywhere** – in our home, at work, at school . . . everywhere we go with someone can be an opportunity to teach them how to obey and serve God.

4.6 “Assist” in church planting by shadow-pastoring behind the scenes.

In church planting, it seems natural for the church planter to assume leadership in the newly planted church. Often, this is not the best way – because it will discourage new believers from rising into leadership and will prevent the church planter from moving on to plant more churches. It is far better for the church planter to mentor some of the new converts to serve as leaders from the beginning. Once there are baptized believers in an area, they should be the ones providing the up-front leadership. The church planter models up to that point and then begins to assist through “shadow-pastoring.”

The “shadow pastor” does not lead the actual group meetings. Instead, he meets with one or two (no more than three) leader-trainees to prepare them to lead the larger group meeting. Meet separately with the new leader-trainees. Go over what happened in the last meeting of the group. Discuss any issues or problems that arose. Go through the material for the next group meeting. Review the songs they are going to sing. Go over the material for the Bible discussion. Teach it to the trainee just as you want them to teach it to the group. Let them “role play” what they will do to lead the meeting. Then, let them lead the meeting with you in the background. If you attend the group meeting, it is important that you not act as the leader. Let your new leaders do that.

Very early on, the shadow pastor should encourage the fledgling church to work toward planting a new church themselves. The shadow pastor assists in this process. After the first reproduction, the shadow pastor will move from “assisting” to “watching” – just as a parent watches their child fall down when learning to ride a bicycle. The young church will make mistakes. This is certain. That is how they will learn.

When they plant another church and are remaining true to the Bible, it is time for the shadow pastor to move on to begin work in another area or return to his home church. He can already physically move on after the assisting stage, but will need to maintain regular contact throughout the watching stage.

First Steps

Is there a Person of Peace or other potential leader who you could “shadow pastor” behind the scenes while they take up front leadership? *See question 23 of the Strategy Worksheet.*

5. JESUS' FINAL WORD ON LEADERSHIP.

Read John 13:1-17

¹It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. ²The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him...

¹²When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

On the night before He was crucified, Jesus gave His final lesson on leadership. A man who knows he is about to die chooses his final words very carefully and speaks of the things that are heaviest on his heart and uppermost in his mind.

5.1 What did Jesus do to train His disciples to be servant leaders?

Before their amazed eyes, the promised Messiah transformed Himself into the likeness of the lowest of slaves. Then He performed the lowest of servant functions – washing other people's dirty feet.

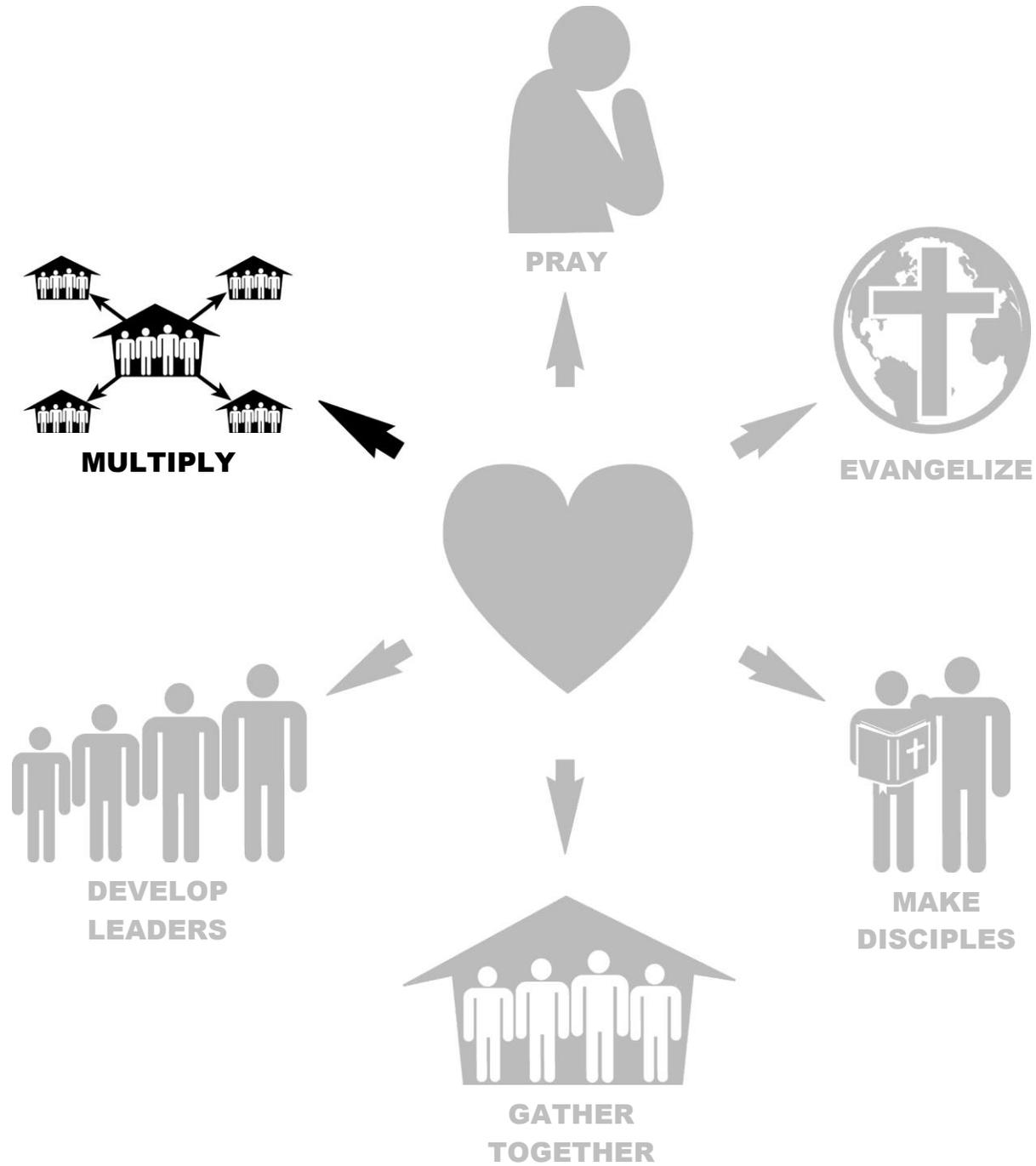
Jesus could have given a long lecture about leadership. Instead, He took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist, got down on His knees and washed His disciples' feet. He knew that actions speak louder than words. He knew that the best way to train people to serve others was to serve them. The only way for us to train leaders to serve is for us to serve them.

It was a sweet example of His gentle love for us. He knew that once we got past the outrage of seeing Jesus washing feet, it would be a little easier for us to do the same thing. And that was the whole point. It is one thing to "know these things." But Jesus says, "You are blessed if you do them!"

First Steps

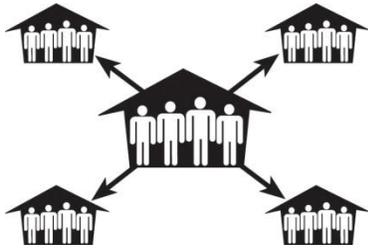
How will you serve your leadership trainees?

See question 25 of the Strategy Worksheet.





M U L T I P L Y



MULTIPLY YOUR CHURCH

MAIN IDEAS

- Every disciple has a role in multiplying the church
- Your “First Steps” challenge is to decide how you will obey Acts 1:8.

1. PARABLE OF THE HARVEST: MULTIPLY

Everything living in this world was created to multiply – Adam and Eve, the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, and every seed-bearing plant.

The Church was designed by God to multiply, too. From a room in Jerusalem on Pentecost to your church in your town today, God instilled the potential to multiply.

Like Adam and ants and apple trees, the Church is a living organism. It is not a building, an institution or denomination, although man has often tried to tame God’s plan by trying to make it so. The Church is intended to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.

The resources for church multiplication are in the harvest. Every believer should be a disciple. Every disciple should be a disciple-maker. Every disciple’s home can be a church. And every church should be a leadership training center!

2. THE ACTS 1:8 CHALLENGE

Read Acts 1:8-11

⁸“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” ⁹After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

2.1 What does this tell us about church planting today?

Jesus makes three main points:

First, our ability to fulfill God's kingdom-expanding plan depends upon our receiving the power of the Holy Spirit.

Second, the Great Commission will always compel us, both geographically and culturally, to go beyond our homes.

Third, Jesus is coming back, and we want to be obeying His commands when He returns. If we want Jesus to return to an obedient Church, we had better stop standing around looking into the sky like His first disciples (Acts 1:10-11) and get busy!

Throughout this manual we have been praying and discussing the "First Steps" challenges. Hopefully, you have been filling in the Strategy Worksheet at the end of this manual.

Now we want to challenge you to ask God if the vision you have is big enough! Most of our visions are too small. Ask God to reveal His biggest vision for you and your church, expecting that it will be much bigger than you can imagine or think you can accomplish.

2.2 Where is God sending you?

Jerusalem – Where you are. For the disciples, Jerusalem was not home. It was where they were. Most of the disciples came from Galilee. They were visiting Jerusalem for the feast of Pentecost. But, when Jesus spoke to them, they were in Jerusalem. Jesus is saying, "Start where you are." Your "Jerusalem" is where you are. Take a moment right now to pray for God to give you His vision for you and your church. Determining your Jerusalem is usually the easiest. Ask God to confirm the boundaries of your personal Jerusalem. Write them on the Acts 1:8 Challenge Chart on page 94.

Judea – Nearby; same culture. Judea was the Jewish area surrounding Jerusalem. It represents any location close to your daily sphere of influence and sharing a common culture or worldview. Ask God to confirm where your Judea is. It could be outside your city, but in your state or province. Write the name of your Judea on the Acts 1:8 Challenge Chart.

Samaria – Nearby; different culture. Samaria was next to Judea. In fact, it lay between Judea (where they were) and Galilee (their home). But, it was not Jewish. Culturally and religiously it was different. Your "Samaria" is any nearby location or people group that has a different worldview requiring cross-cultural communication. Take a moment now and ask God to confirm where your Samaria is. It could be:

- a group near you that belongs to a different ethnic group, speaks another language, or has a different worldview or customs
- a socio-economic group that is much different than yours
- a group of people that is rejected by your culture, including drug addicts, prostitutes, homosexuals, prisoners, or gypsies.

Write the name of your Samaria on the Acts 1:8 Challenge Chart.

End of the Earth – Any location outside the daily sphere of influence of your church that has a radically different worldview with few, if any, common traits. This level is often geographically far away. When Jesus said “the ends of the earth,” He showed that Kingdom expansion has no limits; and your church has no limits when God leads. Big or small, rich or poor, He leads and provides – and you need only follow. Do not let fear or doubt shrink your church’s vision. Write the name of your “end of the earth” on the Acts 1:8 Challenge Chart.

First Steps

Where will you multiply your church?

See question 26 of the Strategy Worksheet.

- The easiest way to multiply is through existing relationships. Use the list of 100 people as a list of people around whom you could start a new rabbit church/SECOND group. Try to fill the groups with people they know and trust. Allow them to recruit the members. Raise up new leaders from within each group who can take over leadership after the completion of the “Discover Track” lessons. They can lead beginning with the “Strengthen Track.”
- If you do not know 100 people who are not yet believers, then complete the list with people with whom you have the most significant relationships. For those who are already Christians, challenge them to start and lead a new group, and volunteer to mentor them through the process. If you are not sure whether or not they are Christians, invite them to attend a “Discover Track” group which you lead. Raise up leaders from within the group during the process. They can lead beginning with the “Strengthen Track.”
- Have the participants in new groups also make lists of 100 people they know and follow this same pattern.

First Steps

Get together with the other leaders present today from your church, and begin to envision your church’s role in completing the book of Acts. Let the following questions guide your discussion:

- Many leaders believe that one church is needed for every 1,000 people. How many churches will it take to reach your community? How many are there now?
- Considering the culture(s) represented in your harvest field, what should a church look like if it is going to reach your target audience?
- What obstacles can you foresee to planting churches that will multiply in that harvest field?
- Where are resources located in your harvest field? Keep in mind that the resources for reproduction are within the harvest. Also keep in mind that the best soil for church planting is often bad people.
- How will you impart a vision for reproduction that compels each church to obey Acts 1:8?

Acts 1:8 Challenge Chart

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> ↙ ↘ </div> Where →	Jerusalem for us is:	Judea for us is:	Samaria for us is:	End of earth is:
↓ What				
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Prayer</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">For what ongoing ministries are you praying in each area?</p>				
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Projects</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">In what ministry projects or events are you involved in each area?</p>				
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Partnerships</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">What ongoing ministry partnerships do you have in each area?</p>				
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Leaders for each area</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 20px;">What leaders do you already have in each area? Which areas need leaders?</p>				

3. CHURCHES THAT MULTIPLY

Read Acts 15:19

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.”

3.1 What problem almost prevented the New Testament church from multiplying?

The first Christians were all Jews. So the first Christian churches were culturally Jewish. They wore Jewish clothes, ate Jewish food, celebrated Jewish holidays and observed Jewish laws, customs and traditions. There was nothing wrong with that. And as long as all the Christians came from a Jewish background, there was no problem.

But something happened – the Gospel began to spread to Gentiles. First, Cornelius and his household (*Acts 10*); then more Gentiles near Antioch (*Acts 11:20*); then Paul began planting Gentile churches in many cities. For the first time, Christians had to ask themselves how much of their Jewish tradition was really essential to Christianity. Some of the Jewish believers thought that the Gentiles should follow the Jewish customs and traditions as they did. In particular, they thought Gentiles had to undergo the painful surgery of circumcision to be saved. (*Acts 15:5*)

3.2 How did the leaders resolve this problem?

Paul knew this requirement would destroy the budding Gentile church planting movement. So, he travelled to Jerusalem to meet with the church leaders to discuss the issue. After hearing what God had done among the Gentiles, James, the brother of Jesus, wisely said:

“It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” (Acts 15.19)

The church leaders all agreed. Paul, Barnabas and delegates from the Jerusalem church, visited Gentile churches, assuring them that Gentiles did not need to follow the Jewish law to follow Jesus.

What would have happened if the church had made a different decision? Very likely, the budding Gentile church planting movement would have been snuffed out. Very likely, Christianity would have been just a sect of Judaism. Very likely, none of us would have come to faith in Christ. That one decision (guided by the Holy Spirit) changed the course of history. It opened the doors of faith to everyone – Jew or Gentile.

We need to have the same wisdom. We should “not make it difficult” for people of other cultures to come to Christ or come to church. We need to take great care that our “Christian” culture does not unnecessarily create barriers to evangelism and church multiplication.

First Steps

What barriers divide your “church culture” from the culture of the community you are trying to reach?

Are those barriers biblical? If not, how will you change the new church to eliminate those barriers?

See question 27 of the Strategy Worksheet.

3.3 How can we eliminate barriers to multiplication?

Sometimes, without meaning to, our churches create barriers to multiplication. If we want churches to multiply, we need to think carefully about how churches can be organized so they can multiply rapidly.

The New Testament establishes the fundamentals for church. But, it also gives a great deal of flexibility. For example, the New Testament does NOT give rules for:

- Where churches should meet;
- What day they should meet;
- What kind of worship music they should sing;
- How long the services should last;
- How many people there should be;
- What the seating arrangements should be in church (or even whether people should sit, stand or lie down).

So it is possible to have biblical church in a large building with hundreds of people sitting in pews facing forward, a band playing worship music, and a salaried pastor preaching from the pulpit in the front.

It is also possible to have biblical church with six or eight people standing or sitting under a tree, eating a meal while each shares a song or a scripture as the Lord leads.

As we plan to meet the challenge of Acts 1:8, we should carefully consider the structure of the churches we plant to maximize multiplication. Though it made many uncomfortable, the Jewish Christians started churches among the Gentiles that were very different than their own churches. Likewise, the churches we plant should not necessarily be like the church to which we are accustomed. It should be a church that can rapidly multiply!

In China, the traditional “mission” church could not multiply without foreign funds and foreign money. The church leaders wisely restructured to eliminate these bottlenecks (barriers) – focusing on reproducing small, lay-led, house churches. This resulted in more churches multiplying more quickly than ever before.

First Steps

What are the structural barriers that make church multiplication difficult, slow or expensive?

How will you change the structure of the new church to eliminate those barriers? *See question 28 of the Strategy Worksheet*

Eliminating Barriers in China

Protestant missionaries had been in China since 1807. By 1949 there were 6,000 missionaries and about 20,000 protestant churches totaling about a million members. The churches were largely dependent upon foreign funds for financial support and foreign personnel for leadership.

In 1949, Mao evicted all foreign missionaries from China. Christians were harshly persecuted and many fell away. By the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1976, there were, perhaps, 100,000 – 200,000 believers remaining. It was hard to see how the church could survive.

But, something amazing happened. The believers, without any outside support, were forced to function in this harsh reality. To survive, they were forced to develop a new kind of church - small groups meeting in homes, led by unpaid lay-leaders. Churches like this can “fly below the radar” and avoid government repression. And they can reproduce rapidly and freely, without need for years of formal training or facility fund-raising campaigns. And they did.

Today, 40 years later, the church in China has multiplied a thousand-fold. There are, perhaps, between one hundred and two hundred million believers. Numerically, this is the largest movement to Christ in human history. It happened, of course, because God worked mightily. It also happened because the structural barriers to multiplication were eliminated.

The traditional “mission church” could only multiply when it had funds for a church building and a foreign-missionary to lead. Foreign funds and foreign leadership became bottlenecks, or barriers, limiting multiplication. The leaders of the Chinese church wisely restructured to eliminate those bottlenecks and opened the doors to virtually limitless multiplication.

Elephants and Rabbits

Elephants are great! They live a long time. They are very strong. Nothing is better than an elephant if you need to carry a heavy load or move a giant log. But elephants move slowly. And they reproduce slowly. A mother elephant is pregnant for 22 months before she has a baby. And she has only one baby per pregnancy. And that baby cannot have babies until it reaches maturity in 18 years. So in three years, two elephants can have one baby, becoming three.

Rabbits, on the other hand, are small and weak. They do not live very long. They cannot carry a heavy load or move a giant tree. But they can reproduce. Rabbits have an average of 7 babies at a time. The gestation period is just one month. A rabbit can begin having babies at just four months of age. In theory (if you had enough space and enough food), within 3 years, two rabbits could become 476 million.

Rabbits may be smaller than elephants, but, however you measure it, 476 million rabbits is more than 3 elephants.

To multiply quickly, we need churches to be like rabbits.

3.4 Elephants are great, but rabbits multiply faster.

There are many different kinds of churches. And there are good things about each of them. There are very large churches with large buildings, salaried pastors and staff members and congregations of hundreds or even thousands of members. Because of their size and resources, these sorts of churches are able to do things that smaller churches cannot. They can organize large ministries. Their pastors are often highly trained and exceptionally gifted Bible teachers. Their worship music is performed at a professional level of excellence. These things are simply impossible for a small house church.

But small, simple churches led by unpaid leaders and meeting in homes can do one thing better than large churches: They can reproduce. They can multiply. Because they do not require a dedicated building, there is no need for land or building permits or funds for construction. Because the leaders are regular working people, there is no need to wait for years of formal training; no need for money for salaries. All that you need are new believers, someone willing to open their home, and someone trained to lead a simple church.

3.5 Key characteristics of reproducing “Rabbit” churches / SECOND groups.

Right now, God is working powerfully. During recent years, in dozens of places around the globe, God has started movements of hundreds or thousands of rapidly reproducing churches. These movements are in the most difficult places in the world – poor places; war torn places; places where Christians are harshly persecuted, where evangelism and conversion are prohibited; places with centuries of entrenchment in other religions.

As we study these movements - though they arise on different continents and from diverse cultures - we find common elements:

- **SStories and small.** They encourage each person in a group to tell their story, listen to the stories of others, and discuss stories from the Bible. Their groups are small (between 2 and 8 people) to maximize impact and allow everyone to discuss the stories.
- **Everyone contributes.** They help people learn how to grow by teaching them to do the following themselves: a) tell others about Jesus, b) learn the Bible, c) talk with God, d) help and encourage others, and e) endure hard times.
- **Consider everyone a potential leader.** They view everyone as a potential leader, both before and after they trust Christ. They give people opportunities to lead if they continue to obey God and progress. Their leaders are unpaid and without formal training.

- **Obedience-based, not just knowledge-focused.** They allow the Holy Spirit to guide people in the life changes and commitments they need to make as they follow the biblical teaching, and they hold each other accountable to these commitments. This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Jesus.
- **New groups rather than big groups.** As people share with others, they are encouraged not to invite the new people to the existing group, but instead to start a new group. The groups meet in homes or neutral places. They meet with new leaders in their groups to coach and encourage those new leaders to do the same for others. They also stay connected with the new leaders for ongoing training and accountability.
- **Discuss and discover.** They focus on the Bible and trust the Holy Spirit to help each person discover the meaning of the Scripture as the group discusses it. They lead a group by asking questions rather than lecturing.

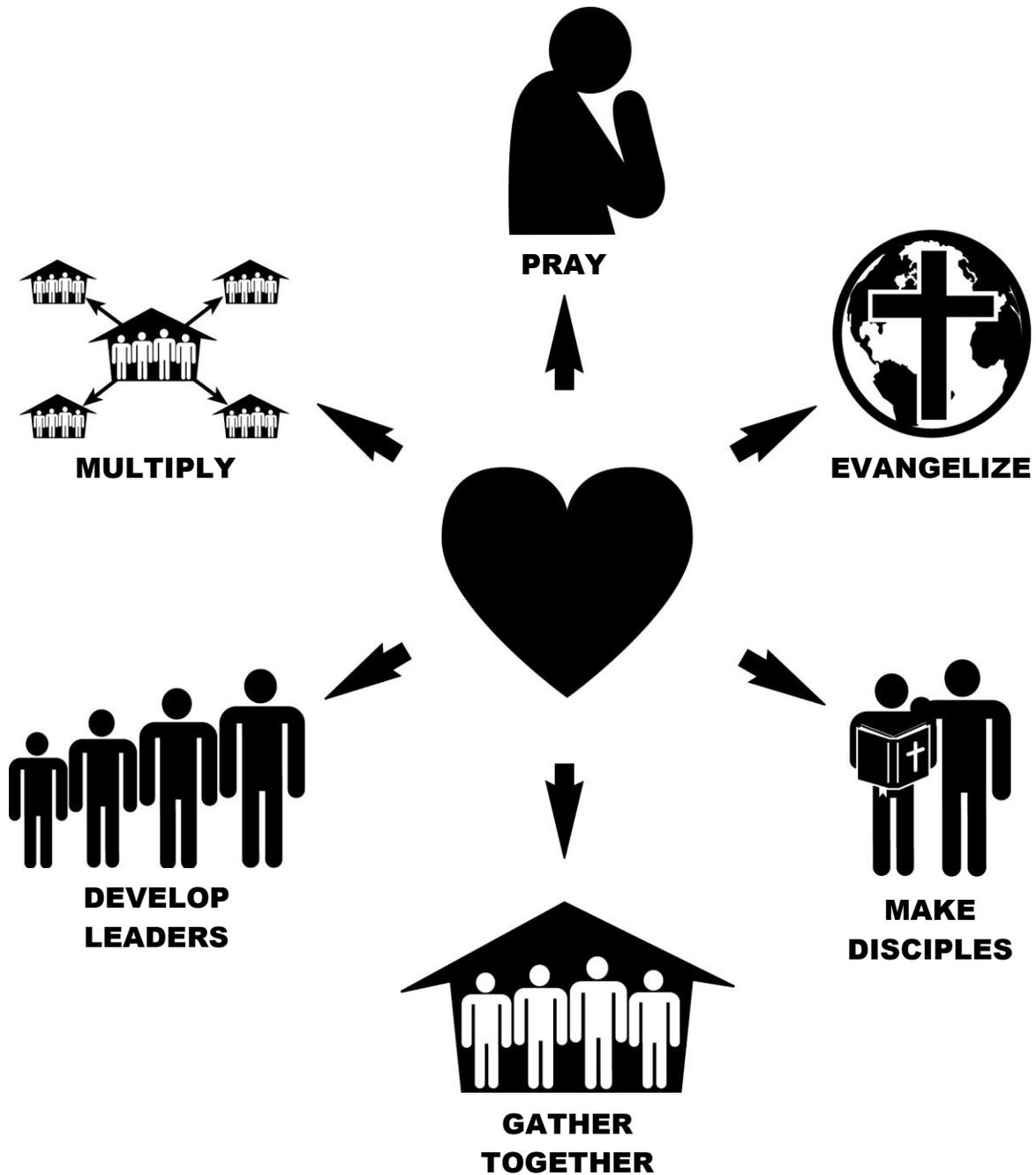
Keep in mind, these are observations and not necessarily commands. It is not a violation of biblical teaching to have a large church with paid staff or a church building. But experience shows that “Rabbit” churches reproduce rapidly.

If our goal is rapid reproduction, we should focus on planting churches with these characteristics.

First Steps

How will you make sure your new churches have the key characteristics of a reproducing “Rabbit” / SECOND church?
See question 29 of the Strategy Worksheet

COMMIT





COMMIT TO CHURCH PLANTING

MAIN IDEAS

- God is sovereign, and He will accomplish His purposes whether or not we obey.
- When we disobey, He may thrust us into obedience. Or we may miss His blessings as He chooses others to accomplish His purposes.
- Your “First Steps” challenge is to act on what you have learned.

1. DISOBEDIENT MISSIONARIES

Read Acts 1:8 again

⁸“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1.1 Where did Jesus tell the disciples to go?

Jesus left no doubt where the disciples were to go. He said they were to be His witnesses “in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” But for the first seven chapters of Acts, they stayed in Jerusalem. So God helped to motivate them.

Read Acts 8:1b, 4-5

^{8:1} . . . On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

⁴Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. ⁵Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

Read Acts 8:14 & 9:31

^{8:14}When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, . . .

^{9:31}Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

1.2 How did God force the disciples to accomplish His plan?

When the disciples did not obey the Great Commission, God used persecution to move them. Without warning, they became involuntary missionaries to Judea and Samaria. God used disobedient people to accomplish His plan. His plan was not stopped even though His people did not obey.

1.3 What was the result?

Once the disciples got where God had told them to go and did what He had told them to do, they had peace, were made stronger, and the number of churches multiplied.

Read Acts 11:19-26

¹⁹Now those who had been scattered by the persecution in connection with Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, telling the message only to Jews. ²⁰Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. ²¹The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. ²²News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. ²³When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. ²⁴He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. ²⁵Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, ²⁶and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

1.4 Who planted the Antioch church?

When the “involuntary missionaries” in Jerusalem fled, some went north 200 miles to Antioch and started a church with new believers. Then the “mother church” in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to lead the new “daughter church.” But Barnabas did not work alone. He, in turn, went to Tarsus to recruit Saul for his leadership team.

2. OBEDIENT MISSIONARIES

Read Acts 13:1-5

¹In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. ²While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. ⁴The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. ⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

2.1 Were Barnabas and Saul obedient or disobedient missionaries?

Barnabas and Saul both listened to God and obeyed immediately. They went beyond Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria to what was “the end of the earth” for them.

3. PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE

Read Joshua 5:4-6

⁴Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the desert on the way after leaving Egypt. ⁵All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the desert during the journey from Egypt had not. ⁶The Israelites had moved about in the desert forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the LORD. For the LORD had sworn to them that they would not see the land that he had solemnly promised their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey.”

3.1 What happens when we disobey God’s call?

Sometimes He forces us to obey through things like persecution.

Other times, He allows us to disobey and have a “normal life,” just as He did with the Israelites when they refused to go into the Promised Land. They had waited for 400 years to return to Canaan and had witnessed incredible miracles. Nevertheless, when it came time to take the land, they refused.

3.2 What were the consequences of the disobedience of the Israelites?

Instead of a relatively short trek from Egypt to Canaan, Israel wandered in the desert for 40 years. Their shoes and their clothes did not wear out. God fed them and gave them fresh water. They lived what became a “normal” life for them. God answered their prayers – but as a punishment, not as a blessing.

And by the end of 40 years, almost every soul that had left Egypt died and was buried under the sand. The “No Generation” missed every one of God’s Promised Land blessings. Those He saved for their children, the “Yes Generation.”

What about you? You know God’s will and His plan for expanding His Kingdom. What is your answer?

Read Mark 4:24-29

²⁴“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you — and even more. ²⁵Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.” ²⁶He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

3.3 What does Jesus promise if you use what you have learned? And what if you do not?

The principle in God’s Kingdom is: Use it or lose it. In other words, the more I use, the more I will receive.

If I use what I learn, I will get even more knowledge. But if I am just a hearer and not a doer, I will lose what I received.

3.4 Who is responsible for success?

God is into teamwork. We do our part; He does His.

We are responsible to take action and follow His orders. Sow seeds. Work hard. Bring in the harvest.

But we are also responsible to rest in the Lord, assured that He takes care of everything else.

Only God is responsible for success.

First Steps

To what are you willing to commit today?

See question 30 of the Strategy Worksheet.

- **EQUIP** - Will you use this material to equip and coach others?
- **EVANGELIZE** - Will you share your story or the gospel with a least two people each week for the next year?
- **ESTABLISH** - Will you plant at least one new work (church, mission church, mission point, annex, extension, etc.) during the next 12 months?

We rejoice with you as God uses you to expand His Kingdom! May the Lord bless you richly as you continue to serve Him.

FIRST STEPS

STRATEGY WORKSHEET

<p>Vision</p>	<p>1. Is the Lord calling us to plant a new church?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not now</p>
<p> Pray Break up the ground</p>	<p>2. When will our church pray for God's will about church planting?</p>	<p>Date:</p>
	<p>3. Where is God calling us to plant a new church?</p>	<p>Place:</p>
	<p>4. Who is a possible person of peace in that place?</p>	<p>Names:</p>
	<p>5. Who is God calling to be on the team to help start a new church?</p>	<p>Names:</p>
<p> Evangelize Sow the Seed</p>	<p>6. What evangelism methods will we use?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> My Story <input type="checkbox"/> EvangeCube <input type="checkbox"/> Jesus Film <input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>
	<p>7. When will we schedule evangelism training for our entire church or church-planting team?</p>	<p>Date:</p>
	<p>8. When will we train the church-planting team or church to tell their personal story or testimony?</p>	<p>Date:</p>
	<p>9. When and how will the church planting team begin to evangelize the community?</p>	<p>Date:</p>
<p> Make Disciples Nurture Growth</p>	<p>10. How will we immediately disciple new believers to find out who is obedient?</p>	
	<p>11. What discipleship methods or materials will we use to teach our disciples how to obey Jesus?</p>	
	<p>12. How can we encourage our disciples to get disciples of their own?</p>	

 <p>Gather Together Bring in the Harvest</p>	13. How can we find a person of peace?	
	14. How can we train the person of peace to evangelize and disciple his friends, family and neighbors?	
	15. How will we gather new believers together in the new church area? What will we call this new group?	<input type="checkbox"/> New Life Fellowship <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Group <input type="checkbox"/> Listening Group <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
	16. Where will they meet? When will they meet?	Place: Day(s): Time(s):
	17. How can everyone participate in the learning process?	
	18. How can we establish loving accountability?	
 <p>Develop Leaders Gather Seed to Sow</p>	19. What should I MODEL for my leaders?	
	20. With what should I ASSIST my leaders?	
	21. What can my leaders do themselves, with me WATCHING?	
	22. When will it be time for me to LEAVE?	
	23. Is there someone I should be shadow pastoring?	
	24. How will we invest time in our disciples and build a relationship with them?	<input type="checkbox"/> One-on-one discipleship <input type="checkbox"/> Head of family disciples <input type="checkbox"/> Cell groups / small groups <input type="checkbox"/> Listening groups <input type="checkbox"/> Other method _____
25. How can I serve my leaders?		
 <p>Multiply Expand the Harvest Field</p>	26. Where will we multiply our church? Where are these areas for us?	Jerusalem _____ Judea _____ Samaria _____ End of the earth _____
	27. What cultural barriers are limiting church multiplication? How can we eliminate those barriers in our new church?	
	28. What structural barriers are limiting church multiplication? How can we eliminate them in our new church?	
	29. How can we make sure that our new churches are "Rabbit" churches / SECOND groups?	<input type="checkbox"/> Small <input type="checkbox"/> Unpaid Leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Meet in homes <input type="checkbox"/> Feed Selves <input type="checkbox"/> Obey Commands of Jesus <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion / Discover the Bible
	30. How will we multiply our ministry?	<input type="checkbox"/> Equip others with this material <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelize our neighbors <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a new church/group

TRAINING APPENDIX

This Appendix contains additional materials for people who will be conducting training events using these *First Steps* material. It is broken into 3 sections:

1. Essentials –

This section defines the key concepts and skills that every trainee should learn from the material in this *First Steps* manual.

2. Exercises –

This section explains group exercises that are useful in communicating the material found in this manual. These exercises have been rated with stars – * to *****, with * representing the least important and ***** representing the most important.

3. Outlines –

This section gives outlines, or schedules, for conducting training events using the *First Steps* materials. Outlines are included for one-day, 2 ½ -day, or 8-week formats so that you can use the one that will work best for those you are training.

ESSENTIALS:

Vision –

- Key Concept:
 - The agricultural and church planting cycles – leading to growth, multiplication and exponential expansion of the harvest

Pray –

- Key Concepts:
 - Pray to prepare the soil
 - Person of Peace
- Key Skill:
 - Prayer-walking

Evangelize –

- Key Skills:
 - Telling your story
 - Telling God’s story using the EvangeCube, Bible Storying or other culturally appropriate method

Make Disciples –

- Key Concepts:
 - Discipleship = Multiplication
 - Discipleship = Teaching Them to Obey Jesus’ Commands
 - Duckling Discipleship – Everyone is a disciple-maker

Gather Together –

- Key Concepts:
 - Biblical essentials of a “church”
 - Building a church around a Person of Peace
 - People do what they learn for themselves and what you check
- Key Skill:
 - Leading a simple Bible discussion

Develop Leaders –

- Key Concepts:
 - Never do ministry alone
 - Model – Assist – Watch – Leave
 - Leader as a Servant

Multiply Churches –

- Key concepts:
 - “Rabbit” churches multiply faster
 - Eliminate structural barriers to multiplication (lay led house churches)

EXERCISES:

When using this material, it is best if the audience is never sitting and passively listening for more than 15 or 20 minutes. Try to break up long lectures with various small- group exercises, audience participation and demonstrations. Below are listed some exercises, graded from * to ***** in importance (***** being most important).

Vision:

- Hand out seeds to audience. *
- Get audience to describe agricultural cycle; compare to church planting cycle. **
- Teach hand gestures for church planting cycle. ****
- Dramatize Matt. 16:18 “and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” ***
 - Ask 4-6 audience members to come to the front and stand in a circle. They represent a village.
 - Ask 4 more to come up front. They represent the attacking army.
 - The village closes its gate.
 - Ask: “In Jesus’ word picture in Matt. 16:18, which group is the church?”
 - The Point: Gates are Hell’s defensive weapon. The church is on the offense, breaking down the gates of Hell and releasing those who are held captive.
- Small group exercise: Acts 14:21-28 – small groups identify the 6 phases of church planting cycle in this text. **

Pray:

- Small group exercise:
 - What do you think are the obstacles?
What does Jesus think are the obstacles?
(John 4:35; Matt. 9:35-38; Luke 10:1-3) ***
 - Basic Point:
Usually, we think the problem is with the harvest field.
People’s hearts are hard. They believe in false religions.
Jesus thinks the problem is with the harvesters.
There are too few, and we don’t see the harvest in front of us.
- Small group exercise:
 - Read Luke 10:5-7. ****
 - Have each small group discuss this Bible passage using the 1st four questions from “Leading a Simple Bible Discussion”
 - What did you like?
 - What did you not like or find confusing?
 - What does this teach about people?
 - What does this teach about God?
 - Then have the whole training class discuss the following questions:
 - What does Jesus tell them to do?
 - What does Jesus tell them not to do?
 - How can we obey Jesus’ instructions, here & now?
- Individual exercise: Fill out “100 People Who Need to Hear” *****

- Have the group develop hand gestures for Prayer-walking: **

Prayer-walking is simply praying as you walk through a community, village, town or city. As you walk through an area and pray, ask God for:

1. **Open Heavens** – Isaiah 64:1
Ask God to open heaven's storehouse, pouring out His blessings upon the people in the community where you walk.
2. **Open Hearts** – Acts 2:7, 21
Ask the Holy Spirit to touch, soften, heal, and occupy the hearts of the people.
3. **Open Homes** – Acts 2:46-47
Ask God for a spiritual awakening to spread redemption through the streets and into every household and establish prayer cells and simple Bible discussion groups.
4. **Open Highways** – Isaiah 40:3-5
Ask God for effective planting and multiplication of churches among the people.
5. **Open Hands** – Matthew 10:7-8
Ask God to show you the needs of the people that you can meet with God's help and to let them see Jesus in you!

Ask God to reveal and bring down any spiritual strongholds in the following areas:

6. **Government** – 1 Timothy 2:1-2
Ask God for His tender mercies on people who may be governed by hardened hearts and blinded eyes and to redeem those in positions of power and influence among the people.
7. **Education** – Proverbs 22:6
Ask that His word be hidden in the hearts of the students, teachers, administrators, and text writers and that God's word would be known and taught.
8. **Commerce** – Hebrews 13:5
Ask God to change hearts from selfishness to generosity; from taking to giving. Cause them to see that He wants to be their all-sufficient Provider, Sustainer, Redeemer and Lord.
9. **Religion and Culture** – Luke 10:27
Ask that all who worship false gods turn from evil and that they would each worship the One True God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength.
10. **Community** – Ephesians 2:19
Pray that the community in which you walk would become a community of believers, glorifying God in all they do as members of the family of God.

- Prayer-walking (actually doing it). ****
Allow 45-60 minutes for trainees to walk through neighborhood as they pray.

Evangelize –

- Your Story ****
 - Have trainees write out their story on one page.
 - Then have everyone read their story out loud, all at the same time. Then edit.
 - Then have them practice twice with a neighbor.
 - Allow 5 minutes for them to review their list of “100 People Who Need to Know” and ask God which are the 1st 5 with whom God wants them to share their story.
- Practice using the EvangeCube or another evangelism method with a partner. *****
- Practical: Street Evangelism *****
 - Allow 90-120 minutes for street witnessing – looking for a person of peace, sharing their story, and sharing God’s story.
 - **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE *FIRST STEPS* TRAINING. DO NOT OMIT OR NEGLECT THIS.**
 - If you are running short on time, you can:
 - combine with prayer-walking, or
 - provide the students with a modest sum of money to buy lunch (instead of having lunch served at the training facility), and send them out during the lunch hour to buy an inexpensive lunch and evangelize.

Make Disciples:

- Demonstration: Pastor A & Pastor B – Discipleship vs. Evangelism ****
 - Ask two volunteers to come forward.
One is “Pastor A” (evangelism pastor).
The other is “Pastor B” (discipleship pastor).
 - Explain that both Pastor A and Pastor B are great guys who love God, love God’s word and love God’s people. The only difference is that Pastor B understands the importance of discipleship.
 - First, both Pastor A and Pastor B go out to evangelize. Each one brings one audience member back to the front as a new convert.
 - Pastor B disciples his new convert so that he learns to evangelize as well.
 - Pastor A goes out to evangelize again, leaving his new convert standing in the front. Pastor A brings back another new convert to his church.
 - Pastor B goes out to evangelize again, but he brings his new convert with him. They both bring new converts back to their church.
 - Pastor A goes out again, by himself, bringing back one new convert.
 - Pastor B and his believers go out together – each one bringing a new convert back.
 - Continue until the whole audience is standing in front.
- Have the group develop hand gestures for the “Seven Basic Commands of Jesus.”

Gather Together:

- Small group discussion: Acts 10 (Cornelius) ***
 - Read Acts 10 passage regarding Cornelius, and discuss the following questions:
 - Where did Peter go?
 - To Whom did he speak?
 - How did they get there?
 - What happened in the weeks and months after Peter left?
- Small group exercise: Matthew 16:13-17 *****
 - Read Matthew 16:13-17
 - Have each small group discuss this Bible passage using the 1st four questions from “Leading a Simple Bible Discussion”
 - What did you like?
 - What did you not like or find confusing?
 - What does this teach about people?
 - What does this teach about God?
 - Then have the whole training class discuss the following questions:
 - What did Jesus want to teach his disciples?
 - How did he teach it to them?
 - Why did he teach it that way?
 - How can we follow Jesus’ example, here and now?
- Practice a “Simple Bible Discussion,” using six questions. *****
 - Hebrews 10:24-25, or feel free to select a different passage.
 - Leading a simple Bible discussion is a critical skill.
 - Make sure your trainees have the opportunity to practice it!

Develop Leaders:

- Foot washing ***
 - Set up chairs in the front of the room Have a basin of water and towel for each.
 - Invite students to wash each other’s feet.
 - Read the passage from John 13:1-17.

Multiply Churches:

- Demonstration of structural barriers ***
 - Get a glass, a plastic water bottle and a large basin.
 - Fill the glass and the plastic water bottle with equal amounts of water.
 - Empty them both into the basin as quickly as possible.
 - Is there any way to make the bottle empty as quickly as the glass?
 - Try again while shaking or squeezing the bottle.
 - Take scissors and cut the bottleneck off of the bottle; refill it and repeat.
 - The Point: There are structural barriers to church reproduction (in particular, buildings and paid or professionally trained staff). Churches like that will never reproduce as quickly as “Rabbit” churches.
- Small group discussion ***
 - What barriers make starting a church slow or expensive?
 - Are those barriers biblical?
 - How could you change your new churches to eliminate those barriers?

OUTLINES

2 ½ -Day Training Event

- **Morning, Day 1**
 - Vision
 - Pray
- **Afternoon, Day 1**
 - Prayer-walking
 - Evangelism
 - Your Story & Practice

- **Morning, Day 2**
 - Evangelism continued
 - EvangeCube or Storying
 - Street Evangelism
- **Afternoon, Day 2**
 - Make Disciples
 - Gather Together

- **Morning, Day 3**
 - Develop Leaders
 - Footwashing
 - Multiply Churches
 - My Commitment

One-Day Training Event

- **Morning**
 - Vision
 - Pray (make sure to cover concept of Person of Peace)
 - Evangelize (spend the bulk of the morning developing practical evangelism skills)
 - List of “100 People Who Need to Hear”
 - Your Story
 - EvangeCube
 - Street evangelism during lunch
- **Afternoon**
 - Make disciples
 - Gather together
 - Focus on practicing the skill of leading a simple Bible study
 - Develop Leaders
 - Multiply churches
 - My Commitment

Eight-week Training

If you are teaching *First Steps* in a local church, probably the most effective way is to teach it over several weeks and allow time for the students to put the principles into practice between teachings.

Week 1: Vision & Prayer Walking

- Assignment:
Prayer-walk your neighborhood every day this week. Pray for a Person of Peace around whom you can form a new simple Bible discussion group.

Week 2: Telling Your Story

- Assignment:
Tell your story to 3 people this week.

Week 3: Telling God's Story

- Assignment:
 - Tell Your Story to 3 more people.
 - Tell God's Story to any who shows interest.

Week 4: Make Disciples

- Assignment:
Teach a younger Christian how to prayer-walk, tell his story, or tell God's story.

Week 5: Gather Together

- Assignment:
 - Continue to prayer-walk, tell your story, and tell God's Story.
 - Ask anyone who responds with interest, "Do you have any friends or family who would be interested in talking about this?"
 - Form a simple Bible discussion group.

Week 6: Develop Leaders

- Assignment:
Work with Person of Peace or natural leader
 - Teach them how to lead a simple Bible discussion.
 - Let them lead it.

Week 7: Multiply

- Assignment:
 - Challenge your disciples to start their own simple Bible discussion group. Help them make a plan to do it.

Week 8: Lord, Give me Your Heart

- Assignment:
 - Walk through your community.
 - Prayerfully assess the needs.
 - Develop a plan to help meet some of the needs.